



Scriptures of the Great Emperor

Synopsis :

The end of the beginning marks the beginning of a new era. Gods and demons were buried in the past, their history had crumbled into dust. As of now, twelve scriptures were passed down.

With the passage of time, during an excavation, a mysterious scroll of star map was unearthed at Egypt. As if carrying its mission, it abruptly appeared, yet abruptly disappeared. During its disappearance, a youth was brought along with it...

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Chapter 1 – The Bones Among Historical Remains

“Amun is the source yet also the final destination of everything. God loves all mortals, whether they are kind or evil, rich or poor. The river of fate starts to flow, continuing until the end which will ultimately head to the one and only other shore.” In the land of Egypt, an old man sat cross-legged on a bridgehead while seriously and sincerely narrating the legends that had been passed on in this great land.

A dark-skinned youth in his twenties who wore handy clothes was carrying a travel bag and squatted in front of the old man. He listened to the old man in earnest and nodded from time to time while asking some questions.

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In the eyes of the Egyptians, a body was merely a container for one’s soul. Death wasn’t the end of life, rather it meant a new beginning.

Under the will of Osiris, souls would enter the river of fate, eroded by it to cleanse their sins, pass through the netherworld and enter the one and only paradise.

.....

“God loves all mortals, forgives all their sins and evils.”

Finally, Lin Hao got up and bowed solemnly.

He was a professional traveler. His parents died early, leaving behind a sum of wealth enough for him to live comfortably even without working, so he spent his entire time traveling. He traveled to numerous ancient civilization sites, exploring and probing the unknown cultures as if this was the only way for him to be able to feel the meaning of life.

This was his second visit to the ancient land of Egypt. It was also the second time he heard the legends that have been passed on in this land.

The legends told by the old man was somewhat different from the general legends, but there was also a similarity between them, namely the belief that death wasn't the end of life and the existence of a world where souls resided.

As for him, it wasn't that he found it completely unbelievable. However, in the era where science thrived, it was hard for him to believe it. He even thought that if that paradise really existed, maybe that was the place he had been pursuing all this time.

Walking into a local hotel, Lin Hao put down his travel bag, taking out his items and put on a pair of sunglasses. Moments later, he had changed from a vigorous tourist youth into a weather-beaten scholar.

"Almost there."

Lin Hao took a look at himself in front the mirror, nodding to himself. He took out another thing then walked out from the hotel.

"Sir, may I ask where are you going?"

"Giza."

Hearing his answer, the driver was obviously shocked for a moment. After seeing Lin Hao's gaunt and haggard appearance who wore shabby yet neat clothes which gave out a scholarly look, he came to an understanding.

Half a month ago, there was a further breakthrough with regards to the excavation of Egypt's pyramids. In the lower layer of the Great Pyramid of Khufu, an excavation team found some weird skeletons. From the shape of those skeletons, there weren't any similarities with any known creatures on the Earth!

Though it hadn't been disclosed yet, there was already an uproar within the archeological community. Relying on his special channels, Lin Hao came to know of this news and hurried over.

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"Traveler, halt your steps!"

Without a doubt, a few guards stationed at the outer perimeter of the pyramid stopped Lin Hao.

"Hello, I'm from Archeological Society of China. This is my business card and credentials." Lin Hao deliberately put on an act like a scholar, took out the credentials and proudly handed them over.

"Please wait."

A few guards took the credentials, sizing them up and spoke in an apologetic manner. Afterward, a guard ran inside bringing the credentials with him.

Lin Hao nodded his head.

Soon after, an old man with disheveled hair walked out and took a glance at Lin Hao. A trace of disgust flashed in his eyes, however, seeing Lin Hao was looking towards him, a smile immediately showed up on his face.

"Hello, friend from China. Currently, the investigation of the pyramid is still in initial stage. Related information is inconvenient to be divulged. I wonder what is the request of your distinguished country. Our side will try to satisfy to the best of our capabilities."

Old fox!

The corners of Lin Hao's mouth curved slightly, but he didn't speak anything else and just took out another set of documents.

"This is my application to the consulate which has been signed by the authorities. It allows China to participate in the pyramid's expedition. Please have a look."

"Consulate!"

The old professor with disheveled hair's smile abruptly froze. He took the documents, yet without even taking a look at them, he handed them over to the young assistant behind him who left hurriedly after receiving the documents.

Upon seeing this, Lin Hao smiled in his heart. He knew that assistant had left to verify the truth.

He didn't care about that. Though the documents from the consulate were fake, but his identity as a member of Archeological Society of China was absolutely genuine. Having traveled to various ancient sites, he was able to obtain the documents easily. Of course, with regards to the pace on how China's consulate handled affairs, they would be unable to obtain the results they wanted in a short time. This would provide him enough buffer time. As for the consequences, with his professional knowledge on archeology, he knew as long as he didn't cause any loss to the relics, there wouldn't be too much of a problem!

"Since you carry the documents from the consulate, I wonder what assistance Mr. Lin would like us to provide?" The old man asked while lifting the glasses on the bridge of his nose.

Lin Hao shook his head, "You have misunderstood me. My country doesn't wish to intervene with your research study. I was sent here as an eyewitness to witness what does the unknown civilization look like. You can just ignore me."

"Mr. Lin, please come with me then."

Sure enough, after hearing that Lin Hao wouldn't intervene with their research, a smile immediately appeared on the old professor's face.

Lin Hao followed the old professor and walked to the pyramid. The air gradually became dull and wet, giving off a feeling of discomfort.

A moment later, they were in front of the pyramid's entrance. A staff member who stood on the side brought a set of protective clothes and stepped forward.

"Professor, here are your clothes."

The old man nodded, then turned around facing Lin Hao, "Preparations will be needed past this point. Otherwise, don't mention the tomb's mechanism, just poison from the tomb is enough to make us suffer. Will Mr. Lin stay here temporarily or go in with us?"

"I will go in then." Lin Hao lifted the glasses on the bridge of his nose and smiled lightly.

"Provide Mr. Lin a set of protective clothes." The old man didn't find it surprising and ordered immediately.

Both of them entered soon after. Though he was situated inside the large tomb, Lin Hao still felt a kind of oppressive feeling. The sound of footsteps was enough to make one's hair stand on end.

Though this wasn't the first time visiting Egypt, personally entering the pyramid, one of the seven wonders of the human race, was the first time for him. Instead of feeling fear, he even felt slightly excited!

.....

Lin Hao duo wasn't the only one inside the pyramid. Other than the old man, there were ten or so excavation team personnel who were in the midst of surveying the bones that had been handed down. Expressions of shock and amazement could be seen on their faces from time to time.

"Mr. Lin, we have arrived. If there's nothing else, I will take my leave. During observation, please do not damage any relics. Of course, as a member of Archeological Society, Mr. Lin surely doesn't need my reminder." The old professor stroke his white beard and said with deeper meaning.

"Professor Ryan! Come quickly and take a look! A big discovery!"

It was at this time, a distant voice suddenly shouted. Hearing this, the old professor gave Lin Hao an apologetic nod and left hurriedly.

Staring at the old professor who was clearly getting on in years, yet dragging the heavy protective clothes as he ran past, Lin Hao shook his head. Lifting his glasses, he started to observe the beast bones that were scattered on the ground.

As for the "big discovery" on the other side, though he was interested, but he wouldn't go and intervene. After all, he was really here only to

observe.

Lin Hao found that from the shape of the beast's skeleton, though it could be counted as something unknown but that wasn't entirely true either. They were similar to the skeletons of wolves, tigers, or leopards, though they were obviously much larger. Hadn't it been for evolution system which had been confirmed, he even suspected that these skeletons were the ancient species of those creatures. It seemed to him now that they clearly weren't.

In the end, he even saw a couple of human bones among these bones. What made him felt incredible was though they were referred as human bones, there weren't any abnormalities in terms of size or shape, but when tried to lift them up to observe them, he found that these few bones were incredibly heavy. It was to the point, if he didn't use his full strength, he couldn't even move them!

"This..."

He couldn't help but shocked. Just imagine, four to five thousand years ago, there existed creatures which had the appearance similar to humans, but a piece of bone alone weighed over a hundred pounds. Once they land their steps, they could even cut into a mountain and split rocks. A collision with them would be akin to being crushed by a war chariot. What sort of concept was that? Just the thought of it would frighten people to death. Yet, why would this kind of creature buried inside the pyramid?

"Mr. Lin, are you there? Please come here!"

At this time, the excited voice of old professor came from the distance.

Lin Hao hesitated slightly, then he put down the bone on his hand and walked to them.

“Mr. Lin, we found a big discovery. I’m not proficient with regards to the ancient culture of China, but do you have any impression towards this pattern?”

Seeing the arrival of Lin Hao, the old professor whose face had turned red, shouted excitedly. He had totally forgotten how he loathed Lin Hao’s appearance before.

Lin Hao was slightly started. He carefully unfolded the scroll which was being studied by the old professor and the others. What he found inside it was a sketch of abstruse star map. He didn’t look at it clearly. Instead, he followed the indication by the old professor and the others and landed his sight on the inscription of the star map, where his eyes shrunk suddenly!

There weren’t any words inscribed, but there was a fist-sized Eight Trigrams drawing!

Inside Lin Hao’s mind, the story regarding Eight Trigrams surfaced immediately. According to the legends, the China’s forefather, Fuxi observed the white turtle in the pond for three days then had an epiphany. He split yin-yang, the two opposing extremes which created heaven and earth, and developed the Eight Trigrams.

This was part of China's civilization!

According to the legends, the pyramids in Egypt were built at around 2700 BC, dating back to nearly 5,000 years ago, which was the initial period of China's ancient civilization. It was right before the era of Three Sovereigns and Five Emperors, the era where China's forefathers thrived!

The time coincided, but... why would the relic of China's ancient civilization appear inside Egypt's pyramids?

Could it be during that period, the two ancient civilization had the means to travel across the continent and intersected with each other?

When he thought of this, part of his knowledge started to be broken. Lin Hao's heart shook. He even felt like his brain wasn't enough for him to use!

"How is it? Isn't this part of China's culture, the Eight Trigrams?" Right at this moment, someone raised his question.

Hearing this, Lin Hao turned around with a serious look. He knew whether his conjecture was correct or not, once this thing was confirmed, it would undoubtedly trigger a magnitude 10.0 earthquake within archeological history!

Right when he was about to answer, a horror scream came from the distance.

"Not good! Get out quickly!"

The expression of the old professor and the others abruptly changed. They didn't wait for Lin Hao's answer and evacuated immediately.

Everyone knew there were strange occurrences within the pyramid. Though they were curious about unknown civilization, they wouldn't joke with their own lives.

There was a youth who had just lifted his foot, but his body abruptly froze.

"Oscar!"

The old professor let out a shout, but there wasn't any response from the youth. A moment later, wisps of black smoke spilled out from his protective clothes.

At the same time, not only him, several excavation personnel also froze in their tracks. Even the old professor, who realized something was wrong and wanted to run away, suddenly stood motionlessly after his fifteenth step. Horrified expression remained on his face. Wisps of black smoke appeared from the inside of his protective clothes and became thicker as the time passed, gradually filling up the entire tomb!

Lin Hao stood still on his place. Fear could be seen from his face.

It wasn't that he didn't want to move, but he didn't dare to move!

He who stood on the side could clearly see that those people stopped in the tracks after came into contact with those black smoke. From his point of view, he knew that those people inside the protective clothes had already decayed.

"Not good!"

Right at this moment, he saw a wisp of black smoke was moving towards him. In a hurry, he raised the scroll on his hand to shield himself!

Crackle, crackle.

The scroll instantly decayed. Without any suspense, the black smoke entered his body!

I am finished!

His expression changed suddenly.

Boom!!!

His mind roared suddenly. Then, his line of sight of the world gradually grew further and further, eventually turned into a thin line and disappeared. For unknown reasons, he could vaguely see that after the scroll had decayed, the star map didn't disappear. Instead, it turned into thin lines and numerous dazzling points of light, sketching out a star map on the empty air. It seemed to move closer to him and became even clearer in his pupil.

The next moment, his sight blurred and completely darkened!

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“The great God of Wisdom, Thoth has left behind an oracle. If what has had passed isn't the end, then the soul who has leaped out from fate will return eventually. Then, everything shall return to its proper track ...”

In the ancient land of Egypt, an old man sat on a bridgehead, continued to pass down the legends of this great land.

Chapter 2 – Shattered World

In a dusky dried up cave, a one-foot long crack appeared on the empty air.

Qian, Kun, Zhen, Xun, Kan, Li, Gen, Dui

An Eight Trigrams drawing spread out. Numerous tadpole-sized runes moved around!

Soon after, as the Eight Trigrams drawing flickered, something heavy dropped down. Accompanied by a “peng” sound, that thing smashed onto the ground.

“Cough cough... It hurts so much.”

Lin Hao woke up, coughing a mouthful of dust, feeling pain on his whole body.

So pain!

He couldn't help but grimace in pain. However, it only caused his pain to worsen as if he had been dismembered by five horses before. The skin on his body was distending as if it could crack at any moment.

What is this place?

He stood up with the support of the rock wall, gazing at the cave filled with cobwebs, dumbfounded.

Currently, his memory was still stuck in the past.

He was in the pyramid where he found strange bones and what was suspected as the vestige of China's forefathers. Afterward, he came across a bizarre situation where the old professor and the rest of them turned into piles of dried-up bones right in front of him.

"Could it be this is the place where Egyptians referred as souls' final destination? The one and only paradise?"

"But... if that's how it is, where are the old professor and the rest? Moreover..."

Looking at the shabby cave in front of him, his suspicion grew. If this was really the so-called ultimate paradise by Egyptians, this paradise's poverty was indeed over the top.

Moreover, this cave had been sealed up, making it extremely murky. Had it not been for the light from the top of the cave, most likely he would be unable to see his fingers after stretching his hands nor his surroundings.

Abruptly appearing in an unfamiliar place, even though he had traveled to numerous unknown sites, he still blanked for a moment but became clear-headed soon after.

"Could it be... that I didn't die and came here due to that star map?"

The more he thought back at the bizarre scene caused by the star map, the more he found it probable. Maybe he really didn't die and was transferred to another place by the star map.

Then... what is this place?

He took in a deep breath then looked at the top of the cave. The height was several zhangs high, yet there was only a small hole. If he was really thrown in from there, even if he wasn't stuck in the hole, he would be smashed to death.

As for the cave entrance, it had been sealed long ago. Hence, it was impossible for anyone to come in.

Damn, how did I enter in the first place!

"AHH!!!"

Thinking this, he felt as if his mind had exploded. Holding his head, he screamed loudly. His eyes were widened as round as a ball, threads of blood filled his eyes!

He felt as if his mind was splitting apart, his whole body perspired heavily. He felt like as if he was being hammered countless times, cracking his mind!

Right at this moment, his vision abruptly became ashen and became normal again moments later. This state persisted for quite a while. In the end, numerous cracks appeared, making it appear like the space itself had shattered!

After quite a while, his vision finally became normal again, before putting down his hands which were clutching his head before. Fear lingered within him.

What is exactly happening here!!!

Barely escaped from death yet encountering something like this straightaway made him almost collapsed. From his vision just now, he even saw that this world had shattered, just like a vase with numerous cracks. He even suspected that there was something wrong with his mind, otherwise, how could he see those absurd scenes.

However, if those were real...

Just when he had these thoughts, he somewhat hesitated then looked at his hands.

In an instant, the ashen world seemed to fuse with the normal world. He immediately saw his hands which had been covered with cracks, similar to a porcelain with cracks, which upon touching would break into pieces!

He inadvertently used the other hand and pressed lightly on one of the cracks.

"Ouch ouch ouch!"

With a burst of pain, he promptly loosened his hand.

Looking at that hand again, his complexion changed.

Though it wasn't exactly like porcelain which would break into pieces with one touch, but the place where he pressed just now had swollen badly. It even revealed a red scratch which coincided with the crack, obviously the injury was too severe.

One had to know that he only pressed lightly and didn't use too much of his strength, yet the result was this terrifying!

As he thought on, his sight landed on the rock wall next to him.

He extended his hand, pressing down a piece of rock lightly.

Soon, his brows jerked. As there was no response from the rock, he continued to press it down with added strength. After increasing his strength by half, suddenly along with a "kacha" sound, the rock split into two parts along the lines of the crack, falling down to the ground.

This...

His eyelids palpitated. Though the rock was covered in dust, it wasn't something that could be crushed by ordinary people.

Even if it was just a common mountain rock, how could it be possible for an ordinary fist to crush it? The one to be wounded should be the fist!

Moreover, he had only used half of his strength and managed to split it apart by pressing against it. This was simply too shocking!

There was an even more absurd thing!

"The crack isn't exactly a crack. It is merely an image I saw. Every object has their own energy distribution. Maybe what I saw are their weak spots which break easily upon touching."

Seemingly sunk in his thoughts, Lin Hao finally calmed down.

It wasn't that Lin Hao was strong nor the rocks were fragile. Even fragile rocks were hard solid, so the problem could only lie within those cracks. Moreover, the cave was sealed up and only had a little hole. Wanting to escape from that hole was undoubtedly a fantasy. If it was before, he simply didn't have any way out. But now with the assistance of those cracks, he could give it a try.

I hope I can get out from here.

He didn't want to be trapped to death alive after making his narrow escape from the pyramid.

No matter what was this place, if he could get out from here, there would always be ways for him to stay alive.

Right at this moment, a “gu lu” sound could be heard from his belly.

His whole body felt weak at this moment. He moved his sight towards the center of the cave. That was the only place where the light shone in the cave.

He had to find something edible. There was a skeleton kneeling in the center of the cave. From how the skeleton looked, that person shouldn't be too big before death. The skeleton was gripping a square cauldron, seemingly in wait of something but had died already.

This small cauldron...

His expression revealed nothing but amazement. Though he wasn't exactly strong, but he was at least an adult, both hands had at least a strength of hundred pounds, yet he was actually unable to lift it up!

Not only unable to lift up, he was even unable to shake it by the slightest bit!

The square cauldron was but as big as a clenched fist, yet it seemed to be thousand pounds in weight. It was so heavy that it was unbelievable. It makes one wonder what were exactly the materials used to craft it.

What kind of place have I come to?

He felt quite apprehensive. Based on his impression, even densest

diamonds in nature, with the size of a clenched fist, wouldn't weigh as heavy as a thousand pounds. The materials for crafting this small cauldron had really crumbled his worldview.

In addition, there was a red liquid in the cauldron which emitted a strange scent. To someone whose belly was rumbling with hunger, this was a fatal temptation. Moreover, this red liquid didn't have any cracks on it. This was the first time he saw something without cracks. Even he himself wasn't much different from a porcelain filled with cracks.

He had wanted to gulp down this red liquid initially. After all, he didn't have any other choices in this cave. But the moment he thought of that he was unable to lift the cauldron up, could it be that he had to lick on it like a pup?

The thought of kneeling down in front of the skeleton and licking the liquid inside the cauldron like a pup made his hair stand on end and felt unwell. Not to mention he didn't even know whether that red liquid was edible or not.

Could it be...

Seemingly thought of something, his complexion suddenly became unsightly.

"Sorry, I meant no offense."

He looked at the skeleton apologetically, saluted it with hands folded, took a step forward, and grabbed out a piece of bone.

He weighed it on in his hands. His expression changed. After quite a while, he released a breath, seemingly relaxed by a lot.

Though the bone was quite heavy, but it was still within the limits of ordinary people. Thinking this, he involuntarily smiled.

What he was thinking just now was that when he saw how heavy the square cauldron was, he wondered what kind of people who could use this small cauldron. Then he thought of that kind of human in pyramid whose a single piece of bone weighed over hundreds of pounds. They were simply humanoid tanks, colliding with them would be equivalent to be crushed by a war chariot. If it was that kind of human, then everything would make sense.

But when he thought that he was probably sent to the era where those abnormal humans lived, his mind became complicated. Though he yearned for this kind of mysterious world, but to really send him into this kind of world, he wasn't prepared yet...

As for what had he exactly prepared, he himself didn't know too. Probably it was a kind of Lord Ye's passion for dragons [1] contradictory mentality.

[tl: [1] = to pretend to be fond of something while actually fearing it.]

But he seemed to have worried too much. Though the bone was heavy, it still hadn't exceeded the limits of ordinary people. It was far different from the ones he found in the pyramid. Obviously, they belonged to a different category.

Up till this moment, his belly was still rumbling. He started to feel dizzy as if he was about to lose consciousness.

I don't care anymore!

Though he was certain there was nobody else in the cave, he subconsciously glanced around. Finally, he turned around, facing the skeleton with a complicated expression.

A skeleton which was like a devout believer, gripping the square cauldron on his hands, knelt in the center of the cave as if praying for something. Standing in front of it was a youth. The only light within the cave shone on him, giving off a saintly feeling.

Yet... the youth stretched out his tongue, licking something...

This kind of scene was strange, no matter how one looked at it. Thinking this, his hair stood on end. Shaking his head, he decided not to think those things anymore and put behind those complicated feelings. Gazing at the pair of skeleton eyes which as if looking at him, he leaned forward and stretched out his tongue...

There was very little red liquid, only a shallow layer much. Lin Hao only licked twice and he had reached the end of it. Yet, it was like aged wine which scorched him from the throat all the way to his lung. It made him feel so comfortable that he let out a moan. His face was burning as well.

When he landed his sight on the small cauldron again, he was

surprised. The bottom of the cauldron was like a mirror with a few decorative designs on it. Lin Hao actually saw a sneaky fat in the mirror who was looking around sneakily, as if he was doing something that couldn't be seen by the others.

Could this be the scene outside the cave?

He blanked out for a moment because he could see a collapsed cave in front of that fatty. Though he couldn't see the cave's cracks through the mirror, but from its external form, it was exactly the same with the cave he was residing in!

This small cauldron... Could it really see things outside the cave?

Chapter 3 – Second Uncle

[tl note :

the measurement unit 丈 is used and i translated it as zhang. Would it be better keep it as zhang or convert it into feet?

(1 zhang = 10 feet)]

Things have gotten serious!

If this cauldron's usage is known by people, if it is to be sold, the price will definitely skyrocket!

He could imagine, if this cauldron could penetrate through the space anywhere and display distant scenes, it would absolutely be popular!

The best peeping tool! Countless gentlemen's desired godly object!

Sigh...

Of course, he could only think about it as he didn't want to sell it either. Regardless of its usage, based on its weight alone, it was something worth researching. Based on its age, it was an ancient relic!

He couldn't even wait to keep it to himself!

Eh?

Sunk in his thoughts, he was suddenly shocked. Without paying attention, he had actually lifted the small cauldron!

Could it be that it got lighter?

Right at this time, before he could even think properly, the skeleton which had been left by the cauldron seemed to lost its hold. In an instant, it crumbled into ashes!

Seeing this, Lin Hao's mouth gradually became the shape of letter O.

It wasn't that he had never seen scenes where skeletons turned into ashes instantly in science fiction movies, but those were custom-made. As a semi-professional excavator, he naturally knew those were impossible.

But moments ago, something impossible had actually took place!

Under his own eyes, it turned into ashes!

"This has nothing to do with me!"

His scalp went numb, took few steps back then spoke hastily as if comforting himself.

He thought again, then promptly put the small cauldron into his pocket.

This was his habitual action, but he forgot how heavy the small cauldron was. As such, his originally ragged clothes was thoroughly damaged, a big hole appeared on his clothes. The small cauldron directly fell to the ground, a deep pit was formed.

This...

His complexion changed and finally reacted. It wasn't that the small cauldron became lighter. Instead, it was him that became stronger, extremely strong at that!

It must be because of the red liquid!

There wasn't any other possibilities. But increment in strength was something good after all, so he didn't put much thought into it. But looking at his clothes which had turned into a strip of cloth and the one lying on ashes.

He hesitated for a bit, then took the robe made out of beast on ashes and covered himself with it.

Though the beast robe was quite shabby, but at least it could cover his body. Moreover it was similar to his physique. However, when he picked up the beast robe, he found out that underneath the beast robe was an armor which was carved with words. But those words seemed very ancient. He couldn't recognize them at all.

Another relic?

He looked at it for a bit then collected it. Afterwards he looked at the rocks which sealed up the cave.

Squinting his eyes, the ashen world once again fused with the normal world. Countless densely packed cracks appeared on his sight again.

Following the lines of cracks, he whirled the small cauldron on his hands, advancing forward while smashing violently!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Under small cauldron's attacks, the hard solid rocks were like bean curds and got smashed to smithereens. The blown-apart rocks rammed into the cave wall, causing the cave to shake violently.

Eh?

Outside the cave, the fatty was startled then looked towards the collapsed cave.

Right at this moment, the rocks at the collapsed cave's entrance abruptly exploded. As if being blasted by explosives, four to five blocks of one cubic metre rocks, after being smashed by the small cauldron time after time, were blown into fragments!

Cough cough...

Lin Hao who was choked by dust waved his hands to disperse the dust.

Then he grabbed the square cauldron and walked out while clad in shabby beast robe, his head was covered with ashes. His appearance was similar to a savage who lived in mountains.

"Howl~"

He hadn't even regained his awareness, yet he saw a fatty in the distance who let out a howl, as if having consumed steroids, the fatty charged at him in excitement.

"Second Uncle!!"

The fatty roared, his voice resounded in the valley. The loud sound buzzed in Lin Hao's mind, his ears went deaf for a moment. Originally, he planned to dodge but he could only stand rigidly in the end as the fatty immediately hugged him.

How heavy!

Lin Hao's complexion suddenly changed as pale as snow. His first thing he thought of was the weight of the fatty. He didn't even pay attention to how the fatty addressed him.

Too scary!

Though the fatty seemed plump, but he was still young, at most fifteen or sixteen years old. His height had only reached Lin Hao's shoulder. From his experience, at most, the fatty weighed around one hundred pounds.

But when he was hugged by the fatty, he found out that he was wrong, terribly wrong!

One must know that the current him could easily lift up the square cauldron, his strength was far much stronger. However, he was almost pushed down by the fatty. It could be seen just how heavy the fatty was.

"Second Uncle! Second Uncle! I knew it! You didn't die! You didn't die!"

"How could you die before marrying that b*tch Nie Li? You must have succeeded, right?"

The fatty roared continuously, numbing both Lin Hao's ears. It wasn't until he had finished his last question before loosening the grip over Lin Hao. He looked at Lin Hao excitedly, tears almost flowed down from his eyes.

Lin Hao was about to say something, but thinking how he looked like now, he swallowed back his words.

He suspected that this fatty's Second Uncle was the skeleton in the cave, but he was unable to say it.

Because that person had died...

The fatty had a simple and honest face. The way he looked at Lin Hao was filled with excitement. The clothes he wore which was made out of

beast skins had several stitches on it, though the stitches were done coarsely and revealed his wheat-colored skin.

What is exactly this place?

How come the clothes here are so crude?

Lin Hao frowned slightly. He had thought of this in the cave before. However, he was unable to think of what kind of place in the Earth that still had this kind of retrogressed conditions. Even impoverished village should at least have woven clothes. Yet, what he saw was the most primitive and poorly handled beast skins!

A youth weighed more than a thousand pounds plus a fist-sized yet unbelievable heavy square cauldron...

The more he thought the more he shuddered. There were too many abnormalities here which wasn't likely to exist on Earth. Each of them was sufficient to become shocking discovery of the century, yet they appeared in quick succession. All of these pointed to a unpleasant conjecture. His complexion became even more unsightly.

Could it be... that he wasn't on the Earth anymore?

The star map didn't only sent him out from the pyramid. It directly sent him out from the Earth!

This level of playing is too much!

Not only he was sent out from the Earth, he was also sent an identity!

Thinking this, his complexion became complicated.

"Second Uncle, you have changed!"

At this moment, the fatty said solemnly.

Hearing this, Lin Hao thumped. Though he hadn't decided whether he would pass himself off, to be found out so suddenly still made his heart skipped a beat. Similar to someone who hadn't done anything wrong, if they were to be tested by lie detector, their heartbeat would accelerate as well.

"You are much thinner and hearing that b*tch Nie Li's name didn't excite you!"

The fatty spoke with a solemn expression.

Lin Hao who was mentally prepared, hearing this, at first he couldn't react to it. When he reacted to it, he was so angry that his nose almost crooked!

At this time, the fatty's expression loosened and softened by quite a bit, and continued, "You used to talk a lot. You'd always talk about your aspirations."

"You loved to tell me your experiences in killing demons."

"You loved to talk about how much has that b*tch Nie Li grown and what skills has she mastered."

"You loved to talk about what present you gave her."

"You loved to..."

At first, Lin Hao still felt quite angry, but as he continued to listen to him, he gradually calmed down. His complexion became quite strange.

From the fatty's description, he had a vague understanding on what kind of person this "Second Uncle" was.

A big fatty who would daydream all day long, a stalker who loved his goddess yet didn't dare to pursue her, someone who liked to boast in front of his juniors and only knew how to prattle about aspirations...

Wait... wait... the rhythm isn't right!

Lin Hao's complexion became increasingly strange. No matter how he looked at it, this was a typical waste!

Heavens, are you toying me?

I'll let it pass that you sent me to this kind of place. I will also be

grateful to you if you gave me a good identity, but do you have nothing else to do by giving me the identity of a waste? What do you mean by this?

The more Lin Hao thought the more amiss he felt. He had a feeling that things weren't so simple, seemingly there were other things waiting for him.

.....

"But it's okay now. No matter what you have changed into, you are still my Second Uncle..."

In the end, the fatty suddenly laughed, even his tears flowed down, while touching Lin Hao's face. Though he was laughing, Lin Hao could tell that he was obviously crying.

Twitching his mouth, even if Lin Hao wanted to say something, facing this fatty, he couldn't open his mouth.

Should I apologize and say you have recognized the wrong person? Or should I comfort him?

Lin Hao secretly shook his head. But what he found strange was that was he really similar to that person, only thinned by a bit?

Should I carry his identity and use it onward?

Thinking this, his belly suddenly growled again.

Hearing this, the fatty hastily wiped his eyes, "Second Uncle, I'll bring you home!"

While speaking, he who stood by Lin Hao's side supported Lin Hao's shoulder, lending him a support and moved on.

Lin Hao initially wanted to reject him as he could walk by himself but the fatty was really too strong that he was unable to resist him. He didn't know whether it was because the fatty was too excited or for other reasons, he actually didn't detected Lin Hao's resistance.

"Second Uncle, it is wonderful that you are alive. Heh heh, now I would like to see who dares to touch our Lin Family's things. You can be at ease, I will also become a warrior this year. I want to see who dares to lay their ideas on Lin Family's things! For those who dared, I'd break their legs!"

It's coming...

Lin Hao's heart sank. He knew things weren't that simple!

Chapter 4 – The Wastrel of Lin Family

[tl notes :

The swallow in Stone Swallow Village is a species of bird, not swallow as to devour.

To avoid confusion, I marked Lin Hao's name with number.

Lin Hao1 meant the original Lin Hao.

Lin Hao2 meant Lin Yi's second uncle.]

The fatty was called Lin Yi. His ill-fated "Second Uncle" was called Lin Hao2. There wasn't much difference with how his previous name sounded like. Lin Hao1 who heard this felt quite uncomfortable in his heart.

[tl:

1 The main character's name in previous world.

2 The name of Lin Yi's second uncle.]

Both of them were members of Lin Clan in nearby Stone Swallow Village.

Since it was known as a clan, it meant a great person had emerged from there before.

According to the fatty's explanation, the ancestors of Lin Family had produced a Tribe Elder before. Its fortune could last three generations.

Therefore, they could be known as a clan. Even though there were only both of them left in Lin Family, the 'clan' title couldn't be stripped off either.

That was to say, even if Lin Hao2 didn't do anything at all, he still could live comfortably.

However, three years ago, Lin Hao2 abruptly stimulated for unknown reasons, in order to break through the restraint of blood vessels and become a warrior, he actually took out the square cauldron handed down by his ancestors and entered a desolate cave alone, seeking breakthrough.

This one trip had taken him three years.

Hearing up till here, Lin Hao1 twitched his mouth.

What other sorts of stimulation could it be?

Either he was looked down by that lady or someone had ridiculed him, making him indignant, or something along these lines. In short, he was forced into a corner then went to seek death.

Being despised was a thing, but hearing up till here, he was finally relieved.

Though troubles weren't less, but Heavens still had its conscience. At the same time, he wasn't given an identity, he wasn't given a consignment of brothers and sisters either, not to mention sons or

daughters. Now that the entire Lin Family had only both he and Lin Yi left. Added with the fact that Lin Yi firmly believed his identity without any doubts.

At least I won't be exposed easily this way.

That was what he thought. As for the "Second Uncle" in Lin Yi's heart, if he were to be placed in the world before he crossed over, he would be the definition of recluse. Putting his family aside, he didn't have much of acquaintances so he didn't have to worry issues about being exposed.

Three years. It could change a lot of things, including people's memories and personality...

"Afterward, someone told me that you have died, even the cave where you went into seclusion has collapsed. But I didn't believe it. Because you have said before that before marrying that b*tch Nie Li, you will definitely not die." The fatty continued to speak confidently.

.....

With Lin Yi's support, he finally made it back to his "home".

But he never expected that the so-called "home" would look like this. At the inside, there was a house made of stones and clay, while at the outside was a circle formed by a pile of messy stones pieces and yellow mud!

This is "Lin Manor"?

He was stupefied. The previous lofty terms he heard before, what member of Lin Clan, what Lin Manor. He was even praising how kind the Heavens was, that no matter at what place, it still left him a foundation and a carefree life...

Could this even f*cking counted as foundation?

His mouth opened while 'serving' the wily Heavens' ancestors in his heart.

Alright then. Compared to those thatched huts beside this, this stone house is indeed better, moreover, it is higher by a grade obviously.

He was unable to imagine how did those thatched huts spend their time during stormy days!

Yet at this moment, two youth who wore straw clothes walked out from the stone courtyard while holding several pieces of stone which smudge of clay could be seen on the top of them. These were obviously dismantled from that stone house.

Seeing this scene, Lin Hao1 was abruptly petrified.....

They have started to dismantle the house??

"Shi Dalong, Shi Hu! What are you both doing!"

The fatty saw this as well. He halted his footsteps, let go of Lin Hao1, and moved towards both of them while staring with both eyes as round as a ball, as if an enraged lion.

Though he seemed simple and honest, when he was enraged, he was extremely scary. His clothes bulged under his strength, his clenched fists seemed to weigh no less than a thousand pounds, every step he took left a deep footprint on the ground!

He was thoroughly angered. Ever since his Second Uncle disappeared, from time to time, there would be people who came to rob or steal things. Even he couldn't prevent these completely. Within the span of three years, most of the things in the house had been emptied. But even so, no one had even been so brazen as to dismantle the house blatantly!

"Not good! It's Lin Yi!"

"Didn't he go hunting?"

"You ask me then I ask who? Anyway, let's run separately!"

Shi Dalong and Shi Hu who saw Lin Yi was greatly alarmed. Discussing with just a couple of sentences, holding their rocks, they scattered into different ways immediately as they were afraid that they would be overtaken.

They were after all ordinary youths, unlike the fatty who had cleared his blood vessels restraint and was a hunting squad warrior. Compared to them, he was stronger by who-knew-how-many folds. How could they

not be afraid? If they were caught, they would definitely be thoroughly beaten up!

“Contemptible!”

Both of them ran quickly and disappeared from his sight just after a moment. The fatty was distracted as he didn't know who should he chase. He also didn't dare to stray too far away from Lin Hao1. As such, he could only let out a snort and step ruthlessly on the ground, leaving behind a hole on it!

“What is exactly going on here?”

Seeing this scene, Lin Hao1 knew things had come, though he was still quite unhappy about it.

Though the exterior of “Lin Manor” had depreciated, which made his cheeks streaming with tears, there were still people who dared to dismantle the bricks, no, dismantle the stones. Were those people really going to let him live in a thatched hut?!

He didn't want to see after he woke up only to find his house had gone someday. Nor he wanted to see though his house seemed fine yet a hole would abruptly appear out of nowhere!

As his mood fluctuated, the ashen world started to appear on his sight, seemingly wanted to destroy everything.

Taking a deep breath, he gradually calmed down and his sight became

normal again.

At this time, the villagers had encircled the surroundings.

Located in the middle of these thatched huts, the stone house naturally seemed towering. Now that there was such a big movement, the villagers were naturally attracted.

He was sighing with regret in regard to the decline of this household which had lost its glory.

"If I were to say, since that wastrel has long died, this house should be dismantled. Why bother to keep it until now!"

There were also some people whose words were more straightforward and ear-piercing. They found the stone house not pleasing to their eyes. On what basis that these able-bodied people who had toiled to plow and mine had to live in thatched huts, yet a stone house was left behind for someone who had died!

Along with the appearance of these words, the surrounding crowd began to jeer, as if wanted to tear down the stone house by voices.

"You guys are the ones who are dead! Scram!"

Hearing this, the fatty's eyes gradually reddened, just like an irritated leopardess, and roared at the crowd.

Some people were scared and took a few steps back, some sneered, though nobody had left.

The fatty who had entered the hunting squad had cleared his blood vessels restraint thus he wasn't someone ordinary anymore. Thus, he seemed quite awe-inspiring.

If it was only a couple of people, they would definitely run as far as they could. However, with so many people surrounding him, with the so-called laws couldn't punish masses, couldn't it be that Lin Yi wanted to beat all of them up?

Not to mention it was disallowed by the village rules, just the combination of those hunting squad warriors was enough to tear Lin Yi apart.

Seeing this scene, Lin Hao's¹ heart sank.

It seemed like the relationship between Lin Family and the others was bad indeed. Of course, it wasn't exactly that bad either. It was just that they got to live in the stone house while the others could only live in thatched huts. Some people couldn't help but jealous. This was something unavoidable, especially under the circumstances that the stone house's owner had died.

"Little Yi, don't bother to argue with them."

Lin Hao spoke with a hoarse voice. This was his first time here. His identity problem wasn't resolved yet so he didn't want to show off too

much.

Hearing this, the fatty calmed down a bit, nodding his head resolutely.

But he felt quite strange in his heart.

Theoretically, shouldn't Second Uncle be the one angry the most?

If it was before, hearing those words, Second Uncle would already go and fight for lives with those people. Because to Second Uncle, the stone house isn't merely a house. It is a symbol which represented honor!

Perhaps this is his experience after three years.

He thought again. Each time he thought of his Second Uncle was trapped in the cave for three years, he would feel pain in his heart. Though his Second Uncle didn't really die, for someone to be trapped in such a place for so long, the thought of it made him shudder.

Luckily, he is back.

Lin Hao¹ entered the house with the support of Lin Yi, but some people at the outside revealed looks of suspicion.

"The one who stood beside Lin Yi, does anyone find him familiar?"

"Yeah, did you feel that way too? I seem to have seen him somewhere

before, but I can't remember where!"

These people were bewildered but they couldn't be blamed. After all, Lin Hao¹(Hao²) hadn't much contact with them and so much time had passed, his figure changed as well, therefore it was natural that they couldn't remember in a short time. However, they were neighbors after all so they had a few impressions of him. As these impressions became clearer, their complexion gradually changed as well.

"Could it be... the wastrel of Lin Family?"

"Impossible! Didn't he die already? My Third (paternal) Uncle personally saw he was trapped in the collapsed cave!"

Though that was how he said on mouth, but nobody could let out a laugh now. Being trapped didn't mean that person would surely die.

The stone house in Stone Swallow Village represented honor, it was a status. A great person had emerged from Lin Family ancestry before. It stated their fortune would last three generations. Lin Yi was a member of fourth generation. There wasn't any problems no matter what they did. Therefore in these past two years, they became more and more unrestrained. Now that the wastrel of Lin Family hadn't died, things weren't as simple as before anymore. Even the village rules wouldn't let them lay their ideas on the stone house!

There were some people who had left the crowd secretly.

Due to the affair from three years ago weren't exactly clear, even

though they had confirmed the death of Lin Hao1(Hao2) in these past two years, they didn't dare to dismantle the house blatantly. However as the painting slowly unfolded [3], they didn't expect that the wastrel of Lin Family actually didn't die!

[tl: [3] = 3 徐徐图之. I'm not exactly clear on what it means either. Literally, it meant slow painting. I guess it's something along the line of 'as scene unfolds'.]

For someone who was supposed to be dead wasn't dead, to someone people, it meant nuisance.

The only people left at the outside of the stone house now were some elderly.

They weren't like those youth. Whether stone house or thatched huts, hardly mattered to them.

They were young before. There were even some who had seen that glorious person of Lin Family. In regard to Lin Family's decline, they could only sigh with regret. As for the resurrection of Lin Hao1(Hao2), they weren't exactly shocked either.

To describe them in a sentence would be like this. They had lived too long and lost most of their youthful vigor.

"Lin Family... isn't destined to be doomed after all." Someone sighed with regret.

Chapter 5 – Stone Inscriptions of Fighter Blood Congealment Techniques

In the end, these elderly dispersed one after another. Lin Hao, under Lin Yi's lead, walked into a secret chamber inside the stone house.

There weren't many things inside the chamber. The most eye-catching items would be the four head-sized stone inscriptions!

Each clan had their own heritage. Even Lin Family, a "pseudo-clan" in the village, was no exception.

The stone inscriptions in front of him was exactly Lin Family's heritage.

Four fighter blood congealment techniques!

Lin Hao was quite moved. The stone house represented too many things. It wasn't a mere house. It was also a kind of resource. Take fighter blood congealment techniques for example. To an ordinary villager, it was extremely precious. Only by displaying enough innate talents and picked by the village, they would be granted the access to it. Otherwise, no matter how hard they tried, they wouldn't be able to obtain it.

Yet Lin Family alone had four pieces.

This should be the things they wanted.

He could imagine, the big figures behind all of these mustn't be those

villagers.

Those people won't dismantle the house for no reason as there is no meaning to it.

It is impossible as simple as only to vent their anger. If it is only a couple of people, it may be possible. But for so many people to go mad at the same, it is impossible. Unless Lin Family has done atrocious acts, forcing the masses to push against the collapsed wall.

However, from his observation, though Lin Family couldn't be exactly counted as having good moral standing and reputation, there wasn't any this kind of situation either.

Thus, the only possibility left is that Lin Family has something desired by the others!

Thinking this, Lin Hao took a deep breath and calmed down.....

If Lin Family really had the things they wanted, he would sooner or later know who the other party was.

After all, those people had planned and prepared for two or three years, or maybe even more. It was impossible for them to give up just because of his appearance. Either they would try to take away by force or trickery, else they should do things covertly. But as long as they weren't successful, there would be a day when the map was unfolded, a stiletto was exposed. [1]

[tl: [1] = 1 图穷匕见, the real intention is revealed in the end.]

"If other don't offend me, I won't offend them either."

Being quiet for quite a while, that was what Lin Hao thought in his heart. Then he landed his sight on the stone inscriptions in front of him.

"Human's blood vessels are of low grade, incomparable to large clans', only by breaking through the blood vessels' restriction, clearing primary meridians, one could congeal fighter blood and tread upon the path of cultivation."

He recited the technique on the stone inscription silently and started to cultivate.

Gradually, from his vision, he could see specks of fluorescence light in the air started to gather on his body. Whenever a speck of light entered his body, he would feel a refreshing feeling...

He took a deep breath and shut his eyes. He could distinctly feel his strength was gradually increasing.

Generally speaking, even in this world, the strength of ordinary people was unable to surpass thousand pounds either. But after congealing fighter blood, each time they cleared a primary meridian meant increment of thousand pounds in strength. A person had twelve primary meridians altogether. If all of them were cleared, that would be twelve thousand pounds!

That was why hunting squad's warriors who had broken through their blood vessels' restriction were revered by everyone. Each of them had strength far superior than ordinary people.

Moreover, this was only on theory. In fact, clearing six primary meridians meant reaching small success, fighter blood would form small circulation, growing and multiplying without end. Clearing twelve primary meridians meant reaching perfection, fighter blood would form big circulation and Essence could be released. By then, the increment in strength wouldn't be as simple as merely thousand pounds. To those who had reached peak of Fighter Blood stage, having thirty thousand pounds of strength was normal.

Thirty thousand pounds. On Earth, that was equivalent to fifteen tonnes!

That kind of existences, even within a radius of thousands of miles were experts that could be counted by hands. Even if placed in a tribe, that kind of existences wouldn't be disregarded either...

Yet in Stone Swallow Village, there were two warriors whom had reached large success of Fighter Blood. One of them was Patriarch Zhu Changdao, the other one was the vice captain of hunting squad, Young Patriarch Zhu Mingyu!

Soon after, he opened his eyes. Those weak energy around his body had disappeared.

Gazing at the stone inscription in front of his knees, he hesitated a bit.

To an ordinary villager, having fighter blood congealment technique was akin to be bestowed by Heavens. This meant they had the possibility to set their foot on cultivation path, becoming part of hunting squad, and to be detached from mundane world henceforth...

But to obtain four cultivation method suddenly...

This really made one to be troubled from happiness...

He shook his head while laughing. Just now, he had tried out all the fighter blood congealment method on these stone inscriptions. Though they were quite effective, but each of them wasn't much different from each other, so they should be of same grade.

"The stone inscription on the left doesn't suit me, the Blood Essence cultivated from it is too gentle and reserved. The one on the right is too violent. Things which lean towards extremity usually have fatal flaws so they can't be recklessly chosen. This leaves the two remaining pieces in the center.."

There weren't high or low distinction among these four methods on stone inscriptions, therefore he could only choose one suitable for himself.

In the end, he chose the middle left one. Portrayed on it was a giant of indomitable spirit who held heaven-splitter hatchet on his hand. Below it was the fighter blood congealment technique. The fighter blood congealed using this technique was extremely overbearing with extraordinary strength.

Overbearing, powerful!

Similar to that giant of indomitable spirit, it had the traits capable of sweeping over all of the world!

Wait a moment...

He blanked out for a moment.

To congeal fighter blood, one needed more than just a congealment technique. One also needed a drawing for visualization technique. Those visualization drawing, originating from twelve scriptures which had been passed down since ancient times, were the base of cultivation and one couldn't do without it.

Though the fatty's Second Uncle was a recluse, but he ultimately left in order to seek breakthrough. No matter how trash he is, he should have brought his visualization technique with him. Otherwise, wouldn't that mean he was making a fool out of himself?

Thinking this, Lin Hao immediately rummaged through the beast robe's pocket and took out a piece of armor.

This piece of armor was found among the skeleton's ashes. Even at death's door, the fatty's Second Uncle hid it within him, presumably it was something extremely precious. In addition to patterns on the piece of armor itself, there were also densely packed characters which looked like a drawing as well.

"Could it be this is the visualization drawing?"

Gazing at the armor, Lin Hao was quite unsure himself.

However, other than this armor, he couldn't think of any other things else. After all, even if he wanted to hide the ashes from that time, he couldn't do it either since time would corrode it. But these stone inscriptions were different as they wouldn't disappear.

It was just that those characters on the armor were too profound. The characters on stone inscriptions were slightly better as there were similarities between them and oracle bone script. Relying on his archaeology knowledge, he could barely recognize their meanings. But as for the armor, he could do nothing at all.

"I can only ask other people then."

He put back the armor into his pocket and took out the square cauldron again.

Since the time he drank the red liquid, his strength had kept increasing. Initially, he couldn't even lift the cauldron up, but though he put the cauldron into the beast robe's pocket now, he didn't even feel a thing. Even he himself didn't know how much strength he had now.

"Not good!"

Right at this moment, through the small cauldron, he saw the outside scene and his complexion abruptly changed. He promptly pushed the

stone door open and went out.

Chapter 6 – Unreasonable

[tl note : changed Xiao Yi to Little Yi.]

Outside the stone courtyard, Lin Yi was arguing with a group of people, his face flushed with anger.

The group was headed by a youth, with the back of a tiger and waist of a bear [1], wrapped in beast skin. Though he seemed to be older than the fatty by one or two years, he was higher by a head. The outline of his body was clear, his muscles bulged, seemingly full of explosive strength.

[tl: [1] = 虎背熊腰, of tough and stocky build.]

“Lin Yi!”

“Heavenly Eagle Tribe is in need of a batch of swords. The village’s mission is very hard, lacking manpower at the moment. Since your trashy Second Uncle is back, so what if your father, I, want to expropriate him?!” With his hands on his hips, Shi Dashan said indifferently.

“That’s right. The village won’t keep idler. Don’t tell me that you think you can just eat and do nothing at all. How can there be something so good!” The surrounding people began to jeer as well. After all, a capitalist always aroused commoners’ dissatisfaction easily. In Stone Swallow Village, Lin Hao could after all counted as a small capitalist. With hunting squad warriors partaking in, these people became more and more unrestrained.

“Utter rubbish!”

The fatty’s face flushed, staring ferociously in all four directions. Pointing at the burlap sack on his hand, he rebuked, “This is your so-called feeding? You allocated the portion for an infant to my Second Uncle who is an adult yet you have the nerve to ask him to work?!”

One needed energy to do work. This was what infuriated the fatty the most.

The Second Uncle, under the shade of his ancestors, could opt not to work. But putting aside the matter of asking him to work, they actually only allocated him that much provisions. One had to know, Lin Yi only went to receive the portion for his Second Uncle. In fact, the village would leave out a portion for Lin Family every year, but they always used the excuse of Lin Hao’s disappearance to confiscate it. As for whose pockets it entered, it remained unknown.

No matter what, that was when Lin Hao disappeared. Now that Lin Hao was back, there should be his portion this year.

But he never expected, though there was his portion, they only left him a small burlap sack. This was akin to send a beggar away!

“The village’s provisions has been distributed since long ago. Do you really think there is a portion for Lin Family?”

“I can also let you know Childe Zhu has shown mercy and take out these provisions from his house! If you think it’s not enough, then you can just

add it with yours!" Shi Dashan glanced at the burlap sack and sneered.

"That's right! Aren't you a hunting squad warrior? Even after sharing part of your provisions, you will still have enough to eat!"

"Yeah, don't mention that Childe Zhu gave you some. Even if he doesn't, you guys still have enough to eat. What wrong with doing some works?"

Hearing the surrounding people followed to jeer blindly, the fatty's neck reddened from anger.

These people actually had reasons for not distributing provisions and told him to share his provisions. Yet they talked as if a matter of course.

Yes, he had intended to share part of his to his Second Uncle. Otherwise, with that amount of small burlap sack, it wouldn't be enough even if he drank gruel every day.

But those were his provisions! His hard-earned provisions after hunting every day!

Provisions for hunting squad were much indeed, but they needed consumption as well. Putting hunting aside, they also needed to replenish their energy after cultivating. Him sharing his provisions with his Second Uncle, what did it had to do with them? Not distributing provisions yet dared to ask Second Uncle to work?

How could there be anything as good as this!

"I'll do it!"

The fatty was in a fit of anger, yet a hoarse voice came from behind.

In an instant, everyone was silenced. Everyone landed their gaze on Lin Hao, dumbfounded.

After a period of silence, the surrounding people suddenly laughed.

"Now that's right. After eating our provisions for so many years, what's so wrong with doing some works." Someone cackled.

"Yeah, you should have done so right from the start so things won't be so cumbersome. You also made it as if the village owed you something."

"How boring. Let's leave!"

A group of people roared with laughter while the some of them dispersed.

They came to make a laughingstock out of Lin Family, yet they didn't expect that Lin Hao the wastrel would agree to do work. However, since he agreed to do so, there was nothing worth seeing anymore.

From the start to the end, Lin Hao looked at this scene indifferently.

He naturally knew that these people had no grievances with Lin Family. Except for some people who had other thoughts, the rest of them was only here to watch a bustling scene. People loved to see other people's misfortune. This was a bad practice of society. It was the same no matter where it was. But once he agreed, they would naturally disperse.

"Smelly brat, consider it that you are tactful. Remember this well, by eating provisions from the village, naturally you have to do work as well. This is heaven's law and earth's principle, not that the village owes you anything!" Shi Dashan felt boring as well. He only spoke coldly. While speaking, he threw two bronze medals at Lin Hao, as if driving away houseflies.

"Do your father's work!"

Seeing this, the fatty eventually couldn't help but roared. His neck bulged greatly from anger. Like a tiger, he pounced on the two bronze medals and took them down. Then he threw the medals along with the burlap sack at Shi Dashan's face.

"Go and eat your provisions. Second Uncle, you can just eat mine!" Finishing his words, he pulled Lin Hao and was about to enter the house.

"This is what you said!"

Shi Dashan's complexion abruptly sank. Lifting the provisions in his hands, he sneered, "Even if he ate your provisions, he still has to work. The village's provisions are used to replenish energy, not to raise a trash!"

"WHAT!"

The fatty turned around and stared with his wide eyes, unwilling to believe this.

What kind of justification was this? He had returned the provisions, yet they still asked Second Uncle to work!

They obviously came to pick faults. He was about to take action but was pulled back by Lin Hao.

"Second Uncle!"

"Let it be."

As a newcomer, he wasn't clear with the situations here. There was no need to argue with these people.

Moreover, it was merely work, nothing much. He really couldn't understand what were the reasons for those people to cause such a ruckus.

Such a big village, yet they lacked him to do work?

Though the fatty had promised to share his provisions, they still couldn't let it go. There must be something behind this!

Frowning, he walked toward Shi Dashan and looked at him upwardly. His frail body formed a clear contrast to Shi Dashan's. It was similar to a kid who was standing in front of an adult.

One had to admit that Shi Dashan was really awe-inspiring. Though he seemed to be similar to Lin Yi, but he was much taller than an ordinary adult and had broken through the blood vessels' restriction long time ago, joining hunting squad afterward. In Stone Swallow Village, he could be considered an expert.

"What kind of works are there?"

Lin Hao only took a single glance at Shi Dashan then landed his sight on the two bronze medals.

Shi Dashan snorted, "Forging and mining. The village is going to refine swords for Heavenly Eagle Tribe so these two places are severely lacking manpower. Choose one of them."

"Mining then."

Lin Hao pondered, then suddenly smiled.

"This is the medal to report for duty. Remember, a thousand pounds each day!"

Shi Dashan threw out a bronze medal while giving out instructions. Taking the burlap sack, he turned around and left.

These weren't ordinary ores. They were iron ores used to forge irons. A thousand pounds each day, even a hunting squad warrior would find it strenuous. To an ordinary person like Lin Hao, it was quite impossible to complete it!

However, Lin Hao just kept smiling, seemingly didn't care about it. The fatty was about to flare-up a few times but was stopped by him each time.

Chapter 7 – Zhu Mingyu

Shi Dashan was in an extremely bad mood.

He deliberately raised such a high demand, wanting to flare-up by using the problem as an excuse. However, each time he prepared to do so, Lin Hao would respond in a neither hot nor cold manner, causing him to lose the mood to flare-up altogether. Though he clearly achieved his aims, he didn't feel happy at all.

Similar to a punch which landed on cotton, he felt he had expended his strength for nothing.

Hmph!

I will let you live for another two days!

As he moved toward the outside of Lin Family's courtyard, his sight became colder.

"Wait, leave that burlap sack behind."

At this time, Lin Hao's voice came from behind.

Hearing this, Shi Dashan sneered. His hand which was gripping the burlap sack became tighter, evidently he didn't want to hand it over.

Though a sack of provisions isn't much, but it's enough to eat extravagantly for a few meals. It's already in his hands, yet the wastrel wants it back. He must have been buried for too long that his brain has been damaged from the burial to daydream under broad daylight.

When he was thinking this, even wanting to laugh for a bit, just when he was about to turn around and mock him, an ice-cold hand grabbed the back of his hand.

"You!"

Shi Dashan's complexion sank. This wastrel actually dared to touch him!

Turning around, just when he was about to flare-up, his complexion suddenly flushed. A tearing pain came from the back of his hand, which made him couldn't help but groaned, causing him to loosen his hand afterward.

At this time, Lin Hao released his hand and grabbed the burlap sack, slightly smiled.

"Many thanks."

Retreating two steps while lifting the burlap sack, he clasped his hands facing Shi Dashan and went back to the stone house.

Shi Dashan's expression remained ice-cold while gazing at him coldly with a flushed complexion as if wanting to swallow him. But he didn't take action eventually. Only until Lin Hao had entered the stone house, he

let out a snort. He swept his sight around in all four directions, seeing there weren't many people left in the vicinity, he turned around and left.

The fatty took another look at Shi Dashan before entering the stone house in haste.

"Second Uncle, you can't go mining!" He chased after him hastily.

"Why?" Lin Hao stared blankly.

He had known earlier that things weren't so simple but he didn't understand what the point was. Couldn't it be that they wanted to starve him to death?

The fatty's face flushed out of worry, "The iron mine has collapsed a few times, crushing quite a lot of people. That's why not many people dared to go there. The village's demands are so high this time. Something dangerous will definitely happen!"

Having just come back from the gates of Hell, he didn't want his Second Uncle to go to such a dangerous place.

Generally, even if Second Uncle goes there to work, he will receive extra provisions as compensation. Yet, not only he didn't receive any compensation, even his provisions are deducted by this much. And they still asked him to work for them. This is simply madness.

So it's like this.

Lin Hao, who suddenly came to a realization, nodded.

No wonder they forced him to work. Now that he thought of it, be it forging or mining, none of them should be up to any good.

Indeed, if he encountered mining accident during mining, he could only blame his luck and nobody could say a thing of it. It happened to satisfy the desire of those people as well.

"It's alright. I have been staying in the cave for so long that I have my own way to deal with rocks. Otherwise, I can't get out either."

After some thoughts, Lin Hao comforted the fatty eventually.

With his temperament, he wouldn't explain it at first. But seeing how the fatty cared for him, if he didn't give him an explanation, it didn't seem quite right indeed.

Contrary to his expectations, the fatty became even more worried instead.

What kind of joke is this? Can you compare rock and iron? If it's rock, one fist is enough to crumble it. But we're talking about iron here!

It wasn't something to joke about if the iron mine collapsed. An iron half the height of a human was at least thousand pounds in weight. Even hunting squad warriors who hadn't reached the small success of Fighter

Blood stage would be in danger if they were smashed by it. They might even suffer serious injury because of it.

"Rest assured." Lin Hao laughed.

"I can't!"

The fatty became impatient and continued, "If it isn't just thousand pounds each day, I'll dig it. Even if there's mining accident, I can still hold it for a while. Second Uncle, you should just relax and stay at home. I'd like to see who dares to ask you to work. At worst, we will take out clan rules!"

"Don't be willful!"

Lin Hao's complexion sank. He was serious this time.

The fatty had good intentions but now wasn't the time to fall out with those people.

Those hunting squad warriors weren't people that could be easily dealt with. He had probed out Shi Dashan earlier by pressing on the crack on his hand. Though he used all his strength, he only left behind a red mark.

It had to be known that his strength was far much greater than when he first woke up. At that time, he could already break apart the cave. Though he might not be able to break apart the iron mine, his strength wasn't something an ordinary person could withstand. Yet, Shi Dashan actually managed to withstand it with just a groan.

Moreover, those people behind the scene couldn't possibly be only Shi Dashan alone.

Putting it nicely, Lin Family was Lin Clan. But in fact, there were only him and the fatty left. Other than this stone house, they couldn't even be counted as a pseudo-clan. He hadn't clearly grasped the circumstances yet. If the truth were to be revealed, it was impossible for him to be their match.....

The fatty only snorted, obviously was unwilling to accept it.

The next day.

Lin Hao packed his bundle, changed into new beast skin clothes and rushed to the mine according to the map on the bronze medal.

It was just that he was subjected to all kind of gazes during the journey, which made him feel uncomfortable.

Instead of saying that he was going to work, it was better to say that he was a new official, who just took office, who was going to oversee the workplace. There were even some of the gazes that he felt difficult to bear.

The fatty was unable to disobey him in the end and could only let him

go. Though, it was unknown where did he find a top quality ferret skin and asked him to wear it, unwilling to concede no matter what.

It was said that it was something left behind by that Tribe Elder ancestor of his which could hold off for quite a while even if a mining accident occurred. As long as he wasn't crushed to death directly, the fatty would surely dig him out.

Hearing this, he felt a warm feeling in his heart. He even had the urge to stream his cheeks with tears.....

"He really isn't dead yet."

Just when Lin Hao passed a certain alley, inside a spacious red carriage quite a distance away from the stone house, a youth in silver leather armor gazed at Lin Hao through the window.

The youth had an aura of elegance, carrying along a sword which was leaning inside the carriage. His expression, however, was an ice-cold one.

"He actually dared to warn me to not lay my ideas on Nie Li."

"Actually, Childe doesn't need to act this way. He is merely but a worm that can't see the reality clearly. After all, Childe is someone destined to do big things. Why bother arguing with this kind of people. Seeing him acting this way, he must think that mining is something impressive." An elderly who sat beside the youth said respectfully.

"Do you really think I'm bothering him for this kind of thing?" Zhu

Mingyu squinted at the elderly.

“What Childe meant is...” The elderly stared blankly.

At this time, Zhu Mingyu put down the carriage’s curtain, “Shi Tong, return!”

“Alright, jia [1] !”

[tl: [1] = 驾, a syllable usually used to command a horse to move (at least in China).]

The groom who sat in front of the carriage immediately brandished his horsewhip.

Chapter 8 – Fighter Selection

“Childe, what you mean.....” An elderly sat inside a carriage with a confused look.

A hundred or so years ago, Lin Family had numerous hunting squad warriors. During their glory days, they could be counted as the half the sky of Stone Swallow Village. However, they had declined now. Other than the matter concerning Lin Hao, he couldn't think of other things regarding Lin Family which were worth of Childe's concern.

He knew the existences of those stone inscriptions. Though they were precious to ordinary people, they were worthless to Zhu Mingyu as he didn't lack fighter blood congealment techniques. The Violet Heart Arts he trained in was much superior to those stone inscriptions.

“His warning has indeed made me angry. However, if I were to bicker with a waste, how am I different from him?”

Zhu Mingyu smiled indifferently, then took a bite at an apple, “But, do you know why Heavenly Eagle Tribe wants so many swords this time?”

The elderly was stumped for words.

“Why is that?”

The topic went for an unexpected turn that he inadvertently straightened his body and became serious.

The matter about Lin Hao wasn't much, but this was something big!

The task assigned by Heavenly Eagle Tribe this time was heavy, but the rewards were similarly astonishing. They included a chance of participating in fighter selection!

This didn't conform to common sense!

Fighter selection; a selection held by some large sects in Wang City to recruit talents. A desolate area like Stone Swallow Village only had one chance to participate every ten years. Moreover, the quota was pathetically meager.

Quota alone, Heavenly Eagle Tribe only had that very much. Stone Swallow Village didn't even have the qualification to participate.

"Because Heavenly Eagle Tribe has refined an Origin sword, a real Origin weapon."

Zhu Mingyu took another bite of the apple on his hand and continued, "They need ten thousand swords as offerings so that the heavenly sword will be perfected. Afterward, they will gift it to a genius in the tribe. As far as I know, the quota for this selection is only one."

"WHAT? Only one?!"

Hearing this, the elderly's complexion abruptly changed. He even stood

up from the shock. Though the quota from previous years wasn't much, it was never this meager.

He originally thought that as long as they obtained the chance to participate, with Childe Zhu participating, even if he couldn't take the first place, he could at least secure a quota. But he never expected that the situation was like this!

"Could it be....." The elderly's complexion paled as he squirmed.

"That's right."

Zhu Mingyu smiled, "Actually, the fighter selection is merely a pretense. They never intended to give us a chance. The genius of their tribe along with the Origin sword is unrivaled. Letting us enter the stage is merely for their entertainment."

"So that's how it is....."

Hearing this, the elderly sat down like a lost soul.

Though Childe Zhu was powerful, the other party was the genius of a tribe who had the assistance of an Origin sword. Though he believed that Childe Zhu was unrivaled, it was impossible for him to win against the other party. But if they lost this chance, when could Stone Swallow Village walk out of this desolate area.....

Ten years. Would the village be able to produce a genius like Childe Zhu again after ten years?

Even if it did, would Heavenly Eagle Tribe give them a chance again?

"But..... if he were to enter the stage with Origin sword yet lost?" At this time, Zhu Mingyu smiled and continued. A light flickered in his eyes.

"Im....."

The elderly was about to say impossible, but seeing it was Childe Zhu who sat in front of him, he shut his mouth.

Was it possible?

The other side was the genius of a tribe who wasn't lacking in fighter blood congealment techniques. Moreover, with Origin sword on hand, who could beat him on same cultivation stage? Even if there was someone stronger, could he/she withstand the edge of the Origin sword?

"This is the reason why I'm dealing with Lin Family."

Zhu Mingyu's complexion sank slightly, "The ancestors of Lin Family obtained an armor before. It was said that it was peeled off from a demon beast and has formidable power. The demon beast was equal to an expert of Origin stage. With the armor's high defense, withstanding the Origin sword isn't a problem."

"WHAT!"

The elderly stood up again out of shock, "If it's like this, even if by force, we will have him hand it out!"

He never expected that Lin Family still had such a treasure. A demon beast armor, which wasn't much different than an Origin sword in value, was a treasure even a tribe wouldn't disregard.

But hearing those words, Zhu Mingyu shook his head instead.

"It's useless. Three years ago, I wanted it from him before. But he thought I was using the fighter selection to get close to Nie Li. Hence, he wouldn't hand it over."

"His ancestors' fortune lasts three generations. If he brings up the clan rules, we won't be able to move against him."

"What!"

The elderly's beard even rose from anger, "This brat! The clan rules are set by people. Fighter selection is too important for him to act willfully. Even if by snatching, we must snatch it from him. The villagers will understand us!"

"Do you want to make it so that everyone knows it?"

Zhu Mingyu glanced at the elderly indifferently, "If Heavenly Eagle Tribe doesn't have complete assurance, would they give us a chance to participate in the fighter selection? If they came to know that we have such a demon beast armor....."

Though Zhu Mingyu didn't finish his words, the meaning behind those words made the elderly shiver and repeatedly said, "Forgive me, Childe. Forgive me Childe. This old man was raving just now."

Just when he was about to slap himself.

"Enough!"

Zhu Mingyu knitted his brows, "You don't need to pretend in front of me. I have asked Master Huang to take a look. The iron mine will soon collapse. This time, no matter he dies or not, I will get the armor even if it meant tearing apart that stone house!"

"Yes yes, thanks for Childe's understanding. But.....what if he isn't trapped in the mining accident by a fluke?" The elderly hesitated a bit before asking.

Mining doesn't necessarily mean one always had to stay on the inside. If Lin Hao happened to be on the outside during the collapse, wouldn't that mean he had avoided a disaster once again?

"If he isn't trapped?"

Zhu Mingyu raised his brows and laughed suddenly, "The fighter selection is imminent, so don't blame me for being vicious and merciless."

While speaking, a wave of cold air gushed out.

The elderly's complexion changed. He couldn't help but shiver, promptly lowering his head.

In fact, to Zhu Mingyu, killing someone wasn't something much. If it wasn't for Lin Hao's special status, which might reveal the fact that Zhu Mingyu obtained the armor if he were to die unnaturally, would he wait until now?

.....

On the other side, Lin Hao who wore brand new ferret clothes had reached the outside of the mine.

He was here early. Other than a middle-aged man who was mining, the others hadn't arrived yet.

However, he could see countless cracks on the mine. Their quantity far surpassed any other things he saw before. There was even a gigantic crack on the top. Though the others couldn't see it, he knew that if it received too many strikes or control over strength wasn't good, the mine would start to collapse there!

"Those people really think highly of me."

He shrank his pupils, then smiled lightly.

In this iron mine, whoever came to mine would undoubtedly run into a mining accident. As for him, he might necessarily not.

Chapter 9 – Mining

[tl: Previously I have been using 'ashen world'. It will be changed to 'pale gray world' from now on since 'ashen' seems too misleading.]

He rolled up his sleeves and walked toward the middle-aged man.

"You've arrived!"

The middle-aged man glanced at Lin Hao and nodded, seemingly not minding the clothes he wore, and continued to swing the pick in his hands.

Whenever he swung his pick, Lin Hao would feel fear and trepidation.

If he knew that the mine is about to collapse, would he continue to swing his pick like that?

"Stop stop!"

Lin Hao waved his hands and promptly stopped him.

"What's the matter?" The middle-aged man wrinkled his brows.

"Cough cough....."

Lin Hao lightly coughed twice and pointed to the spot where the middle-aged man was mining, "This spot belongs to me now. You go to that side."

While speaking, he pointed to the border of the mine.

Although that spot had less iron ores, that spot was much safer. However, that was only to Lin Hao's eyes. To ordinary people, mining at that spot was an arduous and unrewarding task.

Considering other people's perspective, even Lin Hao himself thought it was too much. The request he raised was simply picking a quarrel.

He had even come up with a reason in order to persuade the other party.

If it came to the worst case scenario, he would pretend to be a dandy and use the name of the Lin Family. That was what he thought.

Who knew that after hearing those words, the middle-aged man didn't even raise an objection. He just took up his pick, looked at Lin Hao with wrinkled brows, and obediently walked to that spot on the border.

Is this for real?

Seeing this scene, Lin Hao was somewhat dumbstruck.

Did he think I'm a supervisor, or is it that he is too open and guileless?

What a strange person!

He thought about it again and felt something was odd. But since the other party followed his words obediently, then it was a good thing. He wouldn't investigate the reason either. After all, he still had to think of a way to dispose this mine.

He slowly squinted his eyes as he thought.

Previously, he only took a quick look. This time, he examined it more carefully and found that the situation was more grave than his estimation!

Countless cracks intertwined with each other. Even if he managed to avoid the huge cracks, if he were to hit the tiny cracks, he might trigger a chain reaction and cause the entire mine to collapse at once!

Is this really a natural mine?

He was starting to have doubts. Would the natural world give birth to such a sinister topography?

This was simply a man-made array that was specially made for him. Once he starts mining, the mine would bury him!

Thinking this, he took a deep breath and didn't dare to be careless.

He began to admire the middle-aged man. Previously, he had swung his pick many times, but the mine had yet to collapse?!

A moment later, he finally found a relatively safer spot.

He cautiously hammered a spot repeatedly with his fist and gradually increased his strength. After a few breaths, a small chunk of ore about the size of a fingernail fell down.

Although it was very small, it made him relax a bit.

At least he confirmed that iron ores were much harder than rocks. Even if it was covered with cracks, it wouldn't crumble with just a single touch. It took 80-90% of his current strength to break apart those iron ores.

"Things will be easier this way."

He nodded his head. Since it wouldn't break easily, he could try tapping other spots. In addition, he wouldn't need to be too nervous.

"Something's wrong. That crack earlier should have required eighty to ninety percent of my strength to break it. But earlier, my strength hadn't reached eighty percent!"

Looking at the fist-sized iron ore, cold sweats started to drip from his forehead.

The crack had reached almost all the way to the top which could have

collapsed the whole mine.

He swallowed his saliva. He was sure that he understood his own strength. Not knowing when it started, his strength gradually increased and accidentally cracked an iron ore .

Ever since he drank the red liquid, his strength had been increasing unceasingly. However, that increase would eventually reach a limit. Especially after Shi Dashan left, his strength had practically stopped increasing.

He felt regret for a while, but he didn't get overly dejected.

After all, no matter how strong an ordinary person was, it was impossible to surpass a thousand pounds in strength. To become stronger, the only way was to cultivate, break through the restraint of blood vessels, and become a hunting squad's warrior. As for this point, it wasn't a problem for him.

Although the Lin Family had declined, he still had four stone inscriptions of Fighter Blood Condensation Techniques. Even if he were to disregard the piece of armor, the inscriptions were enough for him to reach Condensed Fighter Blood Stage.

Wait a moment...

Mulling up to this point, he suddenly found a problem. How much was his current strength?

The strength of a thousand pounds was a theoretical limit. In reality, not to mention a thousand pounds, even reaching the strength of five hundred pounds was nearly impossible for an ordinary person. Only those who had started to cultivate, but hadn't broken through the Condensed Fighter Blood Stage, could gradually get close to the strength of a thousand pounds by tempering one's body, .

Lin Hao creased his brows. Although he had never tested his strength, it was definitely more than five hundred pounds. Otherwise, it was impossible for him to feel nothing when he carried the cauldron which weighed several hundreds pounds.

So he had started cultivating?

"The most important thing in cultivation is the visualization drawing and core principle comes after it. If I have started cultivating, what is my visualization drawing..."

He calmed down as he contemplated his situation.

Suddenly, his mind shuddered and his sight blurred again. The world in his vision became a pale gray, fragmented world!

At this time, in the pale gray world, he could see strands of pale gray energy. They were moving along the borders of the fragmented cracks and into his body. Though he couldn't feel the increase in his strength, but he could vaguely feel something was changing...

The pale gray energy stemmed from the pale gray world. Moreover,

they were located at the borders of the cracks. That was why he didn't notice them before.

But...is this world filled with cracks actually a visualization drawing?

Lin Hao was frightened by this thought, but he calmed down soon afterwards.

In the end, which one is it?

Since the beginning of time, all cultivation techniques stemmed from the twelve scriptures. It was also the same for the visualization drawings. Then which one did this fragmented world belonged to?

Origin Scroll, Star Scroll, Godfiend Scroll, Bloodrealm Scroll.....

Among the few scrolls of the ancient scriptures he knew about, there were none which matched his current situation.

Generally, visualizing the visualization drawing would consume mental strength. The higher grade a techniques was, the higher the consumption. Even for a powerful cultivator, it was impossible to visualize for more than six hours. But he didn't need to use his mental strength. Twenty-four hours of visualizing meant his cultivation speed was four times faster than ordinary people!

Lin Hao's eyes flickered.

That was only in theory. In fact, with the exception of the first two hours, the efficiency for the following hours would drop greatly because of the consumption of mental strength. Lin Hao, who could visualize for twenty-four hours a day, could practically cultivate ten times more than ordinary people!

Initially, he was thinking about how to translate the words on the armor, but he didn't need to now. However, without the proper technique, his speed would be affected. Even so, it was still way above ordinary people!

Chapter 10 – Cultivation

[tl: Changes:

- fighter blood congealment technique will be changed to Fighter Blood Condensation Technique
- fighter blood stage will be changed to Condensed Fighter Blood Stage.]

“What’s going on?”

The middle-aged man collected his pick and walked towards Lin Hao with his brows furrowed.

Lin Hao didn’t know that the middle-aged man wasn’t any ordinary person.

He was Nie Zhan. In his early years, he was a hunting squad warrior who had reached the Fifth Layer of Condensed Fighter Blood Stage. However, during a beast wave, he was injured, and was left with a hidden injury. As a result, he withdrew from the hunting squad and became an ordinary villager.

Even so, his status in Stone Swallow Village was special because he had an arrogant daughter!

(TL: This is what the raw said. 因为他有一个骄傲的女儿! I don’t understand either why would having an arrogant daughter will make his status special lol)

If he didn't want to do anything, no one would force him to do so.

Even him coming to the mine today was only due to the fatty's request.

To ordinary people, a thousand pounds of iron ores everyday was an astronomical number. However, as a former hunting squad warrior, Nie Zhan's strength far surpassed ordinary people even if his fighter blood was abolished. Although completing the task everyday wasn't so easy, with his assistance, it was not that difficult either.

That was why he didn't say anything when Lin Hao asked him to move to the border of the mine. A trace of admiration even welled up in him.

He thought that Lin Hao wanted to rely on himself and didn't want to receive too much help.

However, it turned out like this!

Nie Zhan's complexion didn't look too well.

His attention was always on Lin Hao even while he was mining. Of course, this was nothing considering his strength.

However, since that small iron ore which he mined in the beginning, Lin Hao was only able to mine a fist-sized iron ore. Other than that, he did nothing. He had only knocked on the mine wall unceasingly. So he is only putting on an appearance!

He even suspected whether it was luck that the two pieces of iron ore fell down to the ground from his knocking.

This stinky brat!

Nie Zhan's eyelid kept twitching. How he wished to beat up that guy.

But after some thought, he calmed down again. He only came here to help so it was enough for him to do his thing and besides, he didn't care too much about the others. From his impression, Lin Hao might seemed dispirited and languid but he was respectful to him so he wasn't exactly a scumbag.

He decided to observe him longer.

Though Lin Hao kept knocking here and there, who knew if he really found a better way.

But soon after, his complexion changed. It completely sank.

This brat... he actually slept inside the mine!

Clank!

He firmly stabbed his pick into the ground. The pick's handle quivered!

After a while, he took a deep breath, pulled up his pick and started to

mine again. However, he stopped putting his attention on Lin Hao because he was thoroughly disappointed in him.

It didn't matter what you say to a person who didn't know how to think ahead.

When he first heard that Lin Hao accepted the mining request of his own accord, he thought that there were finally results after practising for three years. But he hadn't thought that Lin Hao was still the same as before!

He had decided that after the matter of refining weapon was over and the stock of iron ores wasn't in short supply anymore, he would distance himself from the Lin Family. As for the mining request this time, he could only try his best and leave it up to fate. Even if he was a hunting squad warrior, he didn't have the confidence to mine a thousand pounds of iron ores every day...

Of course, Stone Swallow Village was a small village. In fact, the demand for iron ores wasn't that high. Even if iron ores had been mined out, not many people would refine them. So much so that there was quite a few iron ores stockpiled in the village. Otherwise, they wouldn't dare to leave the task to Lin Hao.

Even someone as idle as him had placed much importance in the Fighter Selection, much less those "big figures" within the village.

.....

At this time, Lin Hao, who he thought was sleeping, was experiencing one of the biggest transformation in his life!

A cornelian-like drop of blood was gradually forming in his heart. Strands of thread-like Blood Qi were being extracted from all over his body and converged together. This process consumed a lot of his mental strength to a point where he was unable to move at all!

This was his fighter blood!

Even he didn't expect that he would condense his fighter blood this quickly. Counting from the day he first saw the pale gray world, he had only cultivated for three days. Even if his efficiency was ten times faster than ordinary people, it meant that he only took a month!

Even in a tribe, an ordinary person who became a hunting squad warrior by breaking through the blood vessel restraint in a month was considered a peerless genius!

Yet, in reality, he only took a total of three days.

If this cultivation speed was known by others, it would thoroughly shock them and make them go crazy!

If Zhu Mingyu knew this, he would no longer disregard Lin Hao. He might even take action against him.

That was because even Zhu Mingyu himself used as much as three month to reach Condensed Fighter Blood Stage when he first started

cultivating.

This disparity was too large...

He was fully concentrated at this moment, to the point that he didn't even dare to breath heavily, and placed his entire attention on the bloody red drop of blood in his heart.

Being able to condense fighter blood didn't mean it will certainly succeed!

Despite the difference in aptitude and cultivation speed, no matter who they were, as long as they had accumulated enough, they would be able to reach this step sooner or later. Even so, only a handful of people could really break through the restraint of blood vessels.

There were a thousand households in Stone Swallow Village, but there were only twenty to thirty hunting squad warriors!

Although part of the reason was control over the Fighter Blood Condensation Techniques by the village, the main reason was that many of them stumbled at this step.

Once they failed, besides suffering damage to their meridians, an injury would also be left in their minds. The next time they tried to condense their fighter blood would be more difficult...

That was why hunting squad warriors were revered by the others.

His vision of the world had turned completely pale gray. Strands of Blood Qi moved unceasingly towards the drop of blood to repair the crack.

What made Lin Hao the most anxious was that no matter how he tried to repair it, that drop of blood was unable to reach perfection!

Other than the red liquid he saw before, he had never seen anything perfect which was why he didn't aim for perfection as well. After all, not everyone was able to see the distribution of "cracks" in things like he could!

It was unknown whether it was because of the visualization drawing but even if he didn't want to aim for perfection, he couldn't do so. If the fighter blood had any traces of flaws, when he started to condense it, there would be indications of dispersal from the cracks. It decisively made him stop the process.

(TL: maybe it's quite confusing in this part. Imagine it as: if the drop of blood he had condensed has flaws (cracks), the blood that he had condensed will disperse from the cracks, hence he was unable to complete the process.)

Damn! What should I do?!

There was nothing perfect in the world. The only perfect and balanced thing was only red liquid!

At this moment, he concentrated his mind on his body.

He wanted to find the red liquid he drank before!

Initially, he thought that the increase in his strength was attributed to the red liquid. But reality had proved that it was because he was cultivating. Since he had unceasingly visualized the pale gray world, his strength kept growing. Then... where did the red liquid go?

He believed that the perfect substance wouldn't disappear for no reason.

.....

Night had arrived. From the beginning until now, there wasn't a third person who appeared in the mine.

But Nie Zhan didn't care about this anymore. He was thoroughly disappointed in Lin Hao. Even now, Lin Hao was still lying on the floor "sleeping". This was simply unacceptable!

Chapter 11 – Small-scale Collapse

Early morning of the next day, Lin Hao wore his ferret clothes and with overflowing vigor, went to the mine again.

“Uncle, good morning!”

He waved his hand at Nie Zhan enthusiastically. His mood was especially good.

In order to condense his fighter blood, he went back to the Lin Manor very late at night and only had 4-6 hours of sleep but he didn't seem to be tired at all.

Nothing is impossible for a willing heart. It turned out that the red liquid was hidden in his bones all along. Though he only managed to “borrow” a little drop from it, it enabled him to condense his fighter blood and he successfully entered the First Layer of Condensed Fighter Blood Stage.

He even felt that under the influence of his fighter blood, his growth wasn't limited to merely a thousand pounds of strength. Though he hadn't figured out what the changes were, he felt a tremendous change within himself. Even his confidence rose quite a lot.

Confidence was one thing, but he mustn't be lax in cultivating for even a moment.

But he found that no matter where he cultivated, none of the places were as good as cultivating in the mine.

Although the iron mine was densely packed with cracks, had an uneven energy distribution, and was very dangerous, but for him, the visualizing efficiency was exceptionally good. It was many times better when compared to other places.

If he was cultivating in other places, he might not be able to condense his fighter blood after just three days.

That was why he came to the mine early in the morning.

"En."

Nie Zhan nodded his head.

Seeing his neither-warm-nor-cold attitude, Lin Hao was quite surprised.

But he didn't put much thought into it.

The middle-aged man was an eccentric. Naturally, he wouldn't care about the mindset of an eccentric.

After thinking for a while, he walked to the spot where he was knocking yesterday.

He had left a “mark” at that spot. He only needed to “improve” it a bit more before he could cause a small-scale collapse which wouldn’t cause too much of a problem.

Lastly, he only needed to take out the iron ores from the collapsed section. That way, he would save a few days of work...Thinking up till here, he started to knock unceasingly again. Of course, what he used was his fist.

This brat is quite diligent today.

Thinking this way, Nie Zhan’s mood gradually became better.

He even laughed at himself and felt that he was too harsh.

Though Lin Hao was twenty years old now, he had too little experience living under the shadow of his ancestors. It was reasonable if he wasn’t sensible. In his eyes, Lin Hao was still a lad. Previously, he was so disappointed because he had put too much hope in him as he thought Lin Hao would change after three years.

He nodded his head. Since he was still a lad, it was normal to make mistakes. It was good as long as one could change after making mistakes. After all, not everyone was as sensible as his daughter.

Thinking this way, he focused his attention on Lin Hao again.

It would have been good if he didn’t take a look at him. But now that he saw him, his nose was almost out of joint.

Lin Hao was actually at same spot by the wall from yesterday and knocking here and there. What more, his expression was a serious one, as if he was doing something extremely important.

Did he think he is an Origin Stage expert, who could just knock the mine down?

Nie Zhan's heart was burning from anger. The memory from yesterday resurfaced again, causing his mood to worsen.

Forget it!

He withdrew his gaze and began to mine again.

.....

"It's done!"

When it was almost noon, Lin Hao's eyes were filled with glee. Lifting his fist and taking a deep breath, he punched towards a crack in his line of sight!

Boom!!!

His huge fist landed on the wall. A gust of wind surged from the pointed area on his fist. A rumbling sound resounded in the mine followed by a faint shake.

His eyes shrunk. Like a nimble monkey, he ran out from the mine immediately.

Just after he left, a malevolent crack spread out and triggered a chain reaction. Innumerable tiny cracks formed like a spiderweb, spreading out to the entire mine rapidly!

Following waves of the loud rumbling sound, tens of rocks, with the height of half a man, fell down successively and caused dust to billow.

The entire mine appeared to faintly shake.

"Not good!"

Hearing a loud rumbling, Nie Zhan's eyes shrunk. He immediately left his pick stuck to the side of the mine wall and was about to go save Lin Hao.

The fatty's request was for him to come to the mine, mining was an extra. The main reason was to prevent a mining disaster!

He was shocked before he could even turn around.

Lin Hao wasn't inside the mine. Instead, he was outside, looking at everything that had happened in the mine proudly.

Under the gaze of a dumbstruck Nie Zhan, Lin Hao pushed a wooden

cart and piled the iron ores on top of it. Although the rocks which fell down weren't entirely iron ores, he still managed to gather thousands of pounds of ores.

Not long after, a whole cart was neatly filled with iron ores.

"Uncle, I will go deliver these iron ores first."

Lin Hao shouted and informed Nie Zhan.

He informed him even though he felt that there wasn't any need to say anything to the middle-aged man. After all, they were working together.

Looking at Lin Hao who had just departed, Nie Zhan was thoroughly shocked.

Could it be that what this brat had done these past two days was to prepare for this?

Or was it just purely luck?

He shook his head.

When he remembered Lin Hao's serious expression, it didn't seem to be as simple as mere luck.

The fact that the collapse was a small-scale one, and the majority of the

rocks which fell down contained iron ores, if all of these were merely luck, it was somewhat hard to believe...

He hesitated a bit before walking towards the main mine cave.

(TL: previously there're only 矿洞 in the raw but now a 主矿洞 popped up out of nowhere. Presumably there is a main cave and a few branches inside the mine.)

At this time, the main mine cave was already filled with cracks. Some of them were even on the verge of caving in.

But Nie Zhan was a hunting squad warrior who had reached the Fifth Layer of Condensed Fighter Blood Stage. With his strength of almost six thousand pounds, he wasn't bothered with this degree of danger; unless if the entire mine collapsed...

He began imitating Lin Hao's ways of knocking on the mine wall, trying to figure out the mystery behind the collapse.

.....

On the other side, Lin Hao was pushing a cart full of iron ores and walking towards the village.

Although there weren't many iron ores on the cart, they were iron ores after all. By his estimation, its mass wouldn't be small in number.

He didn't know whether there were ten thousand pounds, but they wouldn't be less than a few thousand pounds. Because he was pushing the cart, added with the fact that he didn't have a grasp on his strength, he couldn't make a base estimation. But, at least, he wouldn't have to deliver for another three to five days.

Mulling up till here, he wanted to give his thanks to those people instead. Weren't it for them sending him to that place, he wouldn't have been able to break through the restraint of blood vessel this quickly. Even if he had a breakthrough, if the mine wasn't so dangerous, it wouldn't have been easy for him to create a small-scale collapse.....

According to the map markings on the bronze medal, he pushed the wooden cart to a huge smithy.

"Ei? Here is....."

He stared blankly.

Staring at the bronze medal in his hand, he determined that he hadn't gone to the wrong place. Hearing the forging sounds inside, he could roughly guess what this place was. But to deliver the iron ores here right after mining?

Chapter 12 – Delivered To The Wrong Place.

At this moment, a sturdy man, whose upper half was bare, happened to come out from inside the smithy. Upon seeing Lin Hao wandering in front of the smithy, he walked towards him.

“Hey, stinky brat! What are you sneaking around here for?!”

“These are iron ores? So many of them?”

The man was about to chase Lin Hao away. But when he saw the cart filled with iron ores, he blanked out for a moment.

Lin Hao also blanked out for a moment. Seeing the sturdy man’s reaction, he suspected that he had delivered to the wrong place.

If the iron ores which had been mined was supposed to be delivered to this place, that man shouldn’t have that kind of reaction. In fact, he should have been somewhat prepared. But the bronze medal had only marked this place and the mine on it. Lin Hao didn’t know where else to go.

Had he known about this, he would have asked the uncle in the mine earlier.

Thinking this way, he felt a bit regret.

At the same time, another sturdy man with a pair of bright eyes walked

out from the smithy. Seeing a cart full of iron ores, his eyes lit up.

"Haha, what a coincidence. The smithy is lacking in iron. These should have been transported from the iron mine, right? This little brat's strength isn't bad. Come in and have a look inside!"

The man simply didn't give Lin Hao any chance to explain. Moreover, he was shockingly strong.

Lin Hao might not lose to him in terms of strength, but he was completely bewildered by him. He hadn't even managed to explain when he had already been dragged inside.

"Old Niu, you came back so quickly!"

"Hey! Old Niu, why did you drag this wimpy kid here? Is this a place where a wimpy kid can enter?!" A man who was in the middle of forging saw Niu Da dragging in Lin Hao. He immediately stopped his hammering, wiped his sweat, and walked towards them.

"That's right. Old Niu, didn't you go to the mine to collect iron? Why did you bring back a wimpy kid instead?" A few men who were in the midst of forging put down their work and laid their eyes on Lin Hao.

"Say, kid, have you even weaned yet?"

A bald man deliberately said and laughed loudly. While talking, he purposely slammed the sledgehammer in his hand onto the scarlet sword embryo, which caused a flame to suddenly emit and almost

grazed Lin Hao's face.

(TL: I don't know what this is either. 剑胚 [literally sword embryo])

"Haha....."

Listening to the jeers by this group of people made Lin Hao a bit speechless.

He was thin in appearance, but what did that have to do with being a wimpy kid? Moreover, these people were only slightly older than him, with the oldest probably in his thirties or forties. They just had a sturdier body. Like Shi Dashan, all of them had the back of a tiger and waist of a bear [1], and were at least taller than him by half a head.

[tl: [1] = tough and stocky build.]

However, he could see that their strength was at least greater than five hundred pounds. There were even a few of them who had energy fluctuating around them so they were possibly hunting squad warriors. They indeed had the right to be arrogant.

However, those few people were forging in the back and didn't pay attention to him.

Those who paid attention to him all had strengths nearing a thousand pounds.

Actually, the reason behind the mockery towards Lin Hao was simple. In

this world where wild beasts were treated as food, humans were born strong and sturdy. Generally, they could reach immense strength to around four to five hundred pounds. Furthermore, they could practice techniques on the stone inscription which would make their strength near a thousand pounds.

But Lin Hao, with his thin looks, obviously didn't have much strength. As such, he was incompatible with this place.

Niu Da, who heard all the mockery, couldn't stand it anymore. After all, he was the one who brought Lin Hao here. He yelled, "You scoundrels, let me tell you something. This time, all of you are wrong. This brat's strength isn't small at all."

He was already boorish in the first place. Moreover, he had a loud voice. Now, everyone in the smithy had heard him.

"....."

The scene quieted down instantly. A few sturdy men's sight landed on Lin Hao, especially those who Lin Hao suspected to be hunting squad warriors.

"Hahahaha!"

A few breaths later, it was unknown who initially roared with laughter but it caused the others to laugh as well. There were also those who weren't laughing but they displayed a look of amusement. They obviously didn't believe it!

The few sturdy men who were suspected to be hunting squad warriors also shook their head, and then continued to temper the sword embryo in their hands.

Wasn't it so?

Lin Hao's looks wasn't that much difference from a girl. He didn't even have the qualifications to be bestowed the Fighter Blood Condensation Technique stone inscription from the village.

How could he be strong without the technique? Even if he had some strength, how much could it be?

To say that he had the strength of a thousand pounds, no one would believe that!

"Say, Niu Da, could it be that you saw that he has the strength of a few hundred pounds and thought he is really strong?"

"Haha, Niu Da, I know that you are bored, but you don't need to bring along a wimpy kid."

"Little brat, you have quite the strength, right? Can you lift this rock?"

A person holding a chunk of iron ore, weighing about two or three hundred pounds, threw it directly at Lin Hao. His face was filled with scorn.

He pictured Lin Hao's image, who was in a difficult position, trying to dodge the iron ore.

Looking at this scene, Lin Hao didn't feel anything. Instead, Niu Da's face had reddened from anger.

He felt there must have been something wrong with his brain for him to have dragged Lin Hao here. As a result, he got mocked by this group of scoundrels.

But since he had dragged him in, things couldn't just end like this.

He really thought that Lin Hao's strength wasn't small at all. That wooden cart had at least a thousand pounds of iron ores on it. Though he only pushed the cart, his strength couldn't be low since he was able to push iron ores that heavy. It should at least be higher than five hundred pounds.

He hadn't said anything yet, but everyone was dumbfounded in the next moment.

They only saw that Lin Hao had raised his right hand and directly caught the iron ore thrown by the sturdy man. Moreover, he had done it with a light expression, evidently he didn't use much of his strength.

"Baldy Shi, could it be that the iron ore you threw was hollow?"

The surroundings immediately quieted down. Suddenly someone asked a question. However, this time, the voice was very quiet and didn't contain a tone of mockery anymore.

"That's right. Baldy Shi, you only wanted to scare him so the iron ore was hollow, right?"

Being able to catch an ore weighing two or three hundred pounds with a bare hand, if there wasn't a problem with the ore, it meant he had a strength of at least five hundred pounds. A youth with more than five hundred pounds in strength wasn't much different from them.

The youth whom they had mocked a moment ago was actually comparable to them. Even if they were thick-skinned, their faces were quite hot now. They could only wait for an explanation from Baldy Shi.

"....."

Shi Kang's face darkened. For him to recognize a thin "monkey" who he had mocked just now was more painful than killing him.

But he couldn't say that the ore was hollow either. This kind of lie would be exposed once someone had the ore in their hands. Unless he had problems with his brain, he would never tell this kind of lie.

"Cough cough... Little brat, you do have quite the strength indeed. If you can wield this hammer, I will give you a piece of roe deer meat so you can eat it at home"

Shi Kang walked forward and held out the sledgehammer he usually used to forge.

Chapter 13 – Three Thousand Pounds of Strength

The sledgehammers used for forging in the Stone Swallow Village were all specially custom-made. Each of them weighed five hundred pounds. Even if those sturdy men had strengths nearing a thousand pounds, wielding them was considerably strenuous.

Everyone was dumbfounded. Although Baldy Shi didn't state it explicitly, his words had implicitly admitted that this thin "monkey" had indeed lifted the iron ore.

"Hahahaha!"

"Look at all of your wretched faces. I, your father, has said that all of you were wrong this time but you guys just wouldn't f*cking believe me. Am I the sort of person who would joke around?"

"It feels damn good to vent my anger indeed! Haha!"

The happiest person at the moment was naturally Niu Da. He gazed at the group of people with a complacent look. His sides split apart from laughing.

"Snort, trying to solve the matter with just a piece of roe deer meat. Baldy Shi, you are too stingy. I won't call you Baldy Shi anymore. Just change it to Stingy Shi!"

Niu Da said boorishly. He deliberately circled around a few times, then

took out his own sledgehammer which was inlaid with a golden decorative design, "Come, little brother. If you can wield this sledgehammer, I, your father, will gift you a jar of old wine!"

The surrounding people were shocked.

Wine was different from roe deer meat. All of the people present had some status in the village. Even if they failed to break through the restraint of blood vessels, their strengths still neared a thousand pounds. Occasionally, they could still hunt some of the weaker wild beasts. Although roe deer meat was hard to come by, they could still manage to get some.

But a jar of wine was different as brewing it would take quite a large amount of provisions. There weren't many among the people present who could take out the surplus provisions in order to brew it. Only Niu Da and a few others had this capability.

Some of the men looked at Lin Hao enviously.

"Cough cough, Niu Da, my family was just lacking in old wine. You also know that my mother-in-law always nags about it. How about letting me try?" A man said without hesitation while rubbing his fingers together and stepped forward, readying himself to lift up the sledgehammer with the golden decorative design.

"Let me try too!"

"Wait wait, I want to try as well....."

“Screw off! You scoundrels are really shameless. When the golden sledgehammers were being distributed last time, didn’t you guys try it out? Which one of you managed to lift it up? Each of you went crazy just from hearing about the old wine.”

Seeing that Baldy Shi had stepped up as well, Niu Da’s countenance darkened. He pushed them away and offered the sledgehammer to Lin Hao.

Those who were pushed away were stroking their noses and feeling quite itchy. Their eyes landed on Lin Hao.

Lin Hao looked at Niu Da’s golden sledgehammer, then looked at Baldy Shi’s.

He noticed that the two sledgehammers were different. Although they had the same size, in his eyes, the former had less cracks in its energy distribution and the pounding was more well-distributed. There were even some miniscule cracks which he couldn’t see through.

“How heavy is this sledgehammer?”

Lin Hao pointed at the golden sledgehammer in Niu Da’s hands.

This sledgehammer was obviously different from the rest. From Niu Da’s words, it could be inferred that it was distributed not long ago and it was somewhat special. Asking this question wasn’t strange at all.

“Hehe! Good question! I can tell you that this is a custom-made golden sledgehammer bought from the Heavenly Eagle Tribe. It is much heavier than theirs. Their sledgehammer only weighs five hundred pounds, while mine, a thousand pounds!”

After he finished his words, Niu Da straightened his waist. Even his face became rosier.

Lin Hao was momentarily shocked and then he squinted his eyes to observe carefully. Only then did he come to a realization.

It turned out that this Niu Da was a hunting squad warrior too. Similar to Lin Hao, he had broken through the blood vessels’ restriction not long ago. Thus, the energy he emitted was still quite weak. That was why he hadn’t noticed it before.

“I think I’ll try this one.”

Lin Hao deliberately hesitated for a while before he pointed at Baldy Shi’s sledgehammer.

The surrounding people nodded their heads, not suspecting him the slightest bit.

Not to mention wielding it, just lifting up Niu Da’s sledgehammer required at least a thousand pounds of strength. It was impossible for someone other than a hunting squad warrior!

But that wasn’t how Lin Hao thought. In fact, he presumed it wasn’t a

problem for him to wield the golden sledgehammer. However, danger lurked around him. It was better to not disclose that he broke through the blood vessels' restriction as it could serve as a hidden card during critical moments.

"Are you sure you don't want to try out the golden sledgehammer?"

It was unknown if something was wrong with his nerve. Something that was deemed normal by the others caused Niu Da shock instead.

This shock of his stirred a noise among the surrounding people.

"Shoo shoo, Niu Da, are you befuddled again? We can't even lift it up and you ask this little brother to wield it?"

"Say, Old Niu, don't add to the confusion. As for that jar of wine of yours, you should save it and drink it yourself."

"That's right. Old Niu, save it. How many people can lift that golden sledgehammer of yours? Unless if that person had broken through the blood vessels' restriction..."

A few people spoke at the same time, but now, they couldn't continue any longer.

It was because Lin Hao had received Baldy Shi's sledgehammer while they were talking. Just this alone didn't amount to anything. When they saw that Lin Hao could catch a washbowl-sized piece of iron ore easily, they had guessed his strength was greater than five hundred pounds.

Being able to lift up the sledgehammer wasn't strange.

What made it hard to believe was that Lin Hao actually didn't use both hands to receive it. He only used a hand!

Receiving the sledgehammer using one hand, even if it was the habitually-used right hand, requires at least a strength nearing a thousand pounds. Moreover, from looking at Lin Hao, it didn't look like he was forcing himself but he received it easily instead!

This.....

They looked at each other in dismay. There were twenty three people altogether in hunting squad. They even knew the youngest one, Lin Yi. But they had never heard someone named Lin Hao before.....

Actually, Lin Hao was shocked as well.

He only received it casually and hadn't thought much of it at first. According to his guess, even though he had condensed his fighter blood, he had yet to clear any of his primary meridians so his cultivation stage should be a bit lower than Niu Da. He could barely be counted as reaching the First Layer of Condensed Fighter Blood Stage.

Generally, at most, those in the First Layer of Condensed Fighter Blood Stage had a strength nearing two thousand pounds.

Lifting a five hundred pounds sledgehammer with a strength of two thousand wasn't a problem. But wielding it using only one hand was

quite impossible. It was the same as an adult, who was able to lift something weighed a hundred pounds would find it quite impossible to wield a twenty-five pounds burlap sack with one hand.

Not to mention that he was able to receive the sledgehammer with only one hand. He actually felt like he hadn't even used a third of his strength!

A single hand had the strength nearing two thousand pounds. Could it mean that his strength had surpassed three thousand pounds?

"Cough cough..... My right hand is a little bit stronger."

Feeling the gazes from his surroundings, he immediately changed to using both hands and smiled awkwardly.

However, those words were useless as the gazes on him weren't decreasing the slightest bit.

Are you joking around?

Generally, people's right hand are a bit stronger. The problem was, no matter how strong your right hand, even if you concentrated most of your strength to your right hand, could you lift up the sledgehammer?

Chapter 14 – Innate Divine Strength

“Haha!”

“That’s why I said, little brother, do you want to try my golden sledgehammer? As long as you can wield it, I, Old Niu will treat you to wine right now!”

Niu Da became complacent again. He felt that he had great eyesight, practically the same as the legendary, erm..., Wisdom Discerning Eyes!

Compared to him, these people were practically blind. All of them pretended to be serious all day long which made him seem quite foolish. They were simply envious of him.

He had even thought about whether he should take a stroll in the village tomorrow, to see if there were any other geniuses.

With this incident about Lin Hao, he felt more and more that it wasn’t that there weren’t any geniuses in the village but there should be quite a few of them. However, they were overlooked by these blind people.

The faces of this group of people were as black as a pot but nobody mocked him anymore. It wasn’t as if they didn’t know Niu Da’s personality and they were not inclined to bicker with him. After all, he really ‘uncovered’ someone out this time.

They shifted their eyes to Lin Hao.

"....."

Lin Hao knew his explanation didn't make sense, but he couldn't admit that he had broken through the blood vessels' restriction!

Clank! Clank! Clank!

He could only remain silent, lifting the sledgehammer and pounding on the sword embryo. Fiery red sparks flew in all directions. The heat surged, causing the temperature of the surroundings to quickly raise by a notch.

The temperature in the smithy was already high to begin with. But it temporarily dropped due to Lin Hao.

Now that Lin Hao began hammering, the temperature rose back quickly.

He wasn't like the sturdy men who were using both hands to hammer. Those men didn't have sufficient strength, but he did. His left hand held the sword embryo while his right hand hammered. Every hit of his were very heavy. The veins in his forehead popped up and his left hand, which was holding the sword embryo, became numb from the jolt.

Not long after, he was perspiring heavily.

In his vision, the more obvious energy cracks disappeared under his hammering. But some of the tiny cracks reappeared as well.

By continuous hammering, his fighter blood boiled up as well.

But it was a different case for the sturdy men who were watching all of this, especially Baldy Shi. His eyes were downcast and his heart was dripping with blood.

Lin Hao saw that the sword embryo had less cracks now and its quality had risen by quite a lot. However, the men didn't know it.

What they saw was that an originally good sword embryo had been forcibly hammered into a chunk of metal by him. It became smaller and was now scrap metal!

No matter how solid you forged it, people couldn't possibly bring a chunk of metal to fight, right?

But he still hammered unceasingly. Baldy Shi was about to cry watching this. At first, he wanted to stop him but it was too late. Seeing that the sword embryo was thoroughly hammered into a piece of scrap metal, his eyes lost their vigor. In the end, he didn't have the mood to stop him anymore.

"Stop stop!"

After quite a while, there was someone who couldn't watch any longer and stopped him.

Baldy Shi's eyes reddened from seeing the sword embryo, a semi-finished product which he had taken the trouble to hammer for quite a few days, being hammered into a scrap.

He felt that he had really gone crazy. To think he actually gave him a semi-finished product. Was forging something that could be meddled by an outsider? Moreover, an outsider whose strength was beyond reasonable limits at that.

"What's wrong?"

Lin Hao wept his sweat. The fighter blood in his heart gradually calmed down.

Even so, along with his heart's pulse, the fighter blood's pulsation became a little stronger too. It was as if there was a feeling of it passing through his meridians.

He had a slight feeling that hammering unceasingly under this kind of circumstances had a higher efficiency than mining.

"Cough cough....."

A man pointed at the sword embryo, then pointed at Baldy Shi. He walked forward and patted Lin Hao's shoulder, shaking his head silently.

Lin Hao drew a blank at first, but regained his senses soon after.

He took a look at the others' sword embryo, then took a look at his, which was beyond recognition, and he was dumbfounded. Actually, he was wholeheartedly visualizing the pale gray world and hammered in an attempt to make the cracks disappear. He really didn't meant to ruin it.

"How about.....I just forget that piece of meat?"

Lin Hao acted in a coy manner before saying shamelessly.

It wasn't that he was petty. Instead, it was because he hadn't had meat since he came to this world so he was feeling ravenous.

"No! You must accept it! I, Shi Kang's every word counts. Since you can wield the sledgehammer, I'll go back and bring it to you right now!" Hearing his words, Baldy Shi seemed to be provoked. He bellowed at him and then immediately rushed out from the smithy!

Lin Hao gazed at Baldy Shi who rushed out, dumbfounded.

"Alright, kid, tell us the truth. Have you condensed your fighter blood?"

After Baldy Shi left, a group of people immediately encircled him.

Ruining a sword embryo wasn't really too big of a problem, moreover, it wasn't theirs to begin with. At most, the chunk of metal would be melted and reconstructed again.

And he would let Baldy Shi down for a bit.

But it was a big matter if Lin Hao did really condense his fighter blood.

How many hunting squad warriors were there in the village? Each additional member represented an increase in the village's strength.

The most important part was that Lin Hao was still young. If he became a part of the hunting squad warrior while this young, it wasn't impossible for him to further improve in the future. He might have the chance to reach the small success of the Condensed Fighter Blood Stage and become a "big figure" in the village!

"Not yet."

Lin Hao shrugged his shoulders. His face hadn't reddened the slightest bit.

"Hehe, little brother, don't lie to us. No matter how strong your right hand is, it is impossible to wield this five hundred pounds sledgehammer freely without having a strength of a thousand pounds." A man shook his head, clearly not believing Lin Hao's words.

"That's right, little brother. It is good to be modest, but being excessively modest might bring resentment from the others!" Another man nodded solemnly with an educative look.

"Uh huh, I have a daughter about the same age as little brother. How about"

"....."

Inundated by these people, Lin Hao almost couldn't stand it any longer and was about to run away.

"Enough! Go back to your work now and don't bother guessing anymore. If this kid really hadn't condensed his fighter blood, most likely he has innate divine strength and practiced the technique on the stone inscription before. That's why his strength is greater than a thousand pounds."

At this moment, a few people who was forging at the back of smithy stepped out.

The uproar was too great. The smithy only had twenty to thirty people. Most of them had come to surround Lin Hao so there were practically no one forging.

"Cough cough..... Brother Shi, is it really possible for ordinary people to have a strength of a thousand pounds?"

A man couldn't help but ask the question. However, his tone was much more respectful.

The few people at the back of the smithy were all hunting squad warriors. They were in charge of forging a special sword. Although all of these people were forging together, their status was much higher. Generally, they were equivalent to officials. When commoners talked to officials, their tone would be somewhat reserved.

Chapter 15 – The Mine Collapsed

“Naturally, there are those who could.”

Shi Chong glanced at the sturdy man and placed down the sledgehammer in his hands, “Human races had experts who had ascended to the peak. Their descendants will inherit their bloodlines and possess innate talent superior to others. However, after a few generations or tens of generations, their bloodlines will be thinner. Those geniuses will gradually disappear.

Although Stone Swallow Village was but a small village at the edge of barren land, but if they traced back to the past, it wasn't as if there were no legacy left by ancient experts. Some lucky few could awaken their dormant bloodline and possess innate divine strength. Although there weren't many of these people, they weren't rare either.”

“How about the other village?” someone hastily asked once he finished his words.

“Of course!”

Shi Chong indifferently said, “Everyone has it within them, but the degree of thickness varies. If we trace back to the beginning, all of them were experts with indomitable spirits. Otherwise, they couldn't survive that bloody era. Those people are our most ancient ancestors.”

Speaking up till here, he stopped for a moment before continuing, “But you guys don't need to be envious. This kind of bloodline awakening will

largely suppress the meridians so it's not necessarily a good thing. Generally, it is almost impossible to break through the blood vessels' restriction."

"So that's how it is!"

The group of people suddenly understood, even Lin Hao felt that it was an eye-opener. The things that these hunting squad warrior know are much indeed. Seems like I need to talk with Fatty when I get back.

"It turns out that little brother has innate divine strength. Amazing, amazing!" Someone came forward while cupping his hands.

"Not bad, not bad. If there's a chance, come and sit in my house. It is just in the vicinity. It's the one with a basket hanging outside!"

"Haha... Come to my house as well. I also have a daughter in my house..."

The group of people laughed merrily and dispersed.

Although Lin Hao didn't admit it, they believed that Lin Hao was born with innate divine strength. Afterall, there was no one who would conceal the fact that they had broke through the blood vessels' restriction since it didn't make sense to them.

However, they were still polite to Lin Hao. Although innate divine strength couldn't be compared to those who had broken through the blood vessels' restriction, he was still stronger than them and had bright

prospects.

“Little brat, although you might not break through the blood vessels’ restriction in the future, you still have the strength of a thousand pounds. Are you interested in joining the hunting squad? If you are, I can recommend you over.” Shi Chong walked to Lin Hao and asked him.

Hearing this, Lin Hao shook his head repeatedly.

“Hey, little brat. The hunting squad is a lucrative job. Don’t reject so quickly.” A nearby sturdy man who heard this advised him.

But Lin Hao still continued to shake his head.

The sturdy man took another glance at Lin Hao but could only drop the subject.

Afterall he was someone who hadn’t broken through the blood vessels’ restriction, so there was a limit to his growth in the future. Though the hunting squad was a lucrative job, it was dangerous as well. Since Lin Hao was unwilling to join, he didn’t persuade him further.

Shi Chong nodded his head, but didn’t speak further.

Everyone has their own choices. With Lin Hao’s strength, even if he didn’t join the hunting squad, he could still live well.

.....

“Heh heh, little brat. Do you want to try out my golden sledgehammer? From what I see, even if they can’t lift it, you might be different. Although you probably won’t be able to wield it, you should be able to lift it up. If you can do it, let’s go and drink wine!”

After a while, just when Lin Hao had received the roe deer meat from Baldy Shi and was about to leave, Niu Da came up to him again, with both his eyes fixed on the roe deer meat in Lin Hao’s hands.

Lin Hao was taken aback at first. But after seeing his gaze, he recollected himself.

Who said that Niu Da wasn’t sharp and clever. Drinking wine must be accompanied by food as well. Although Niu Da seemed to be coarse, he was quite scheming. He was definitely attracted to this piece of meat.

.....

Holding the meat in his hand, he walked back towards the Lin Manor and felt free of worries.

After strings of explanations, the sturdy men finally knew that the iron ores were mined by him from the mine. They weighed six thousand pounds in total. In other words, he could rest for six days.

Six days wasn’t long nor short. However, he wouldn’t really use it to rest himself. He wanted to get to the bottom of a few matters.

For example, who is it that wanted to deal with the Lin Family?

He was too weak before this, so he had the mentality of keeping a certain distance from the mastermind. But he had some advantages now.

“Now that I have the strength of three thousand pounds, although I haven’t cleared the first primary meridian, I’m still barely qualified as a warrior of the first layer of Condensed Fighter Blood Stage. If I can clear the first primary meridian, I estimate my strength can be increased to four thousand pounds!”

He secretly assessed that since his fighter blood was more perfect than the others, perhaps the strength increment for each time he cleared a primary meridian was equivalent to the threefolds of ordinary people.

In other words, once he cleared his first primary meridian and really reached the first layer of Condensed Fighter Blood Stage, it was equivalent to a hunting squad warrior of the third layer of Condensed Fighter Blood Stage. That way, he could be considered as an expert in Stone Swallow Village. Then, with the visualization drawing of the pale gray world, he wouldn’t need to fear a majority of people!

There weren’t many hunting squad warriors in Stone Swallow Village, only twenty-three altogether. Those whose strengths are greater than the small success of the Condensed Fighter Blood Stage didn’t even reach ten people. As long as it didn’t involve any big figures, he had the ability to protect himself.

Thinking this, he was finally back. He hadn’t even entered before he heard a burst of a crackling sound.

What was going on?

Feeling alarmed, he dashed in hurriedly and coincidentally bumped into Fatty.

Lin Hao's strength was unlike before. If it was before, the one sent flying would surely be him. But now, Fatty was sent flying like a cannonball.

Accompanying a thud sound, a few big rocks in the courtyard were turned into rubble. Fatty was lying on top of it dejectedly.

Lin Hao swayed for a bit and dashed in afterwards.

"Who is it?!"

Fatty shook his head before standing up and roared like a lion.

Lin Hao had experienced his loud voice before. This time, his eardrum felt painful from the roar, thus he covered his ear.

"Second Uncle?"

Seeing the incoming person, Fatty dazed for a moment.

"Second Uncle!"

He roared again excitedly and rushed forward. His tears squeezed out and the shovel in his hands was thrown to the side.

Fortunately, Lin Hao had broken through the blood vessels' restriction. Otherwise, his neck would have been snapped from his hug.

"Stop stop! What happened exactly?"

Lin Hao pulled Fatty down and asked him with his brows furrowed.

It was too abnormal. He had clearly seen that if he didn't come back, Fatty would have rushed out aggressively, half-naked with a shovel in his hands.

After wiping his tears, Fatty replied, "Second Uncle, the cave collapsed. I had thought that"

"The cave collapsed?"

Lin Hao furrowed his brows and seemingly didn't understand him. But after an instant, his eyes shrunk and his complexion became solemn.

"You are saying... the iron mine cave collapsed!?"

"That's right. I thought you were trapped inside, so I was about to dig you out."

While speaking, Fatty laughed and pointed at the shovel beside him, proving that he was really about to dig him out.

Seeing the shovel, Lin Hao was speechless. However, his heart sank...

